

History

of

**Trinity United
Methodist Church**

Poquoson, Virginia

1882 - 1982

THE WAY WE WERE

A HISTORY OF TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1882 – 1982

1294 Poquoson Avenue, Poquoson, Virginia 23662

The United Methodist Church has a few items (or ingredients) well around, a few more still in the kitchen, which undertake the fascinating and fun chore of preparing this book. The first is the 100th anniversary of the organization of the church. This is the reason for the title of the book.

Bishop	<i>Dr. William Blackburn</i>
District Superintendent	<i>The Rev. Ferd Wagner</i>
Minister	<i>The Rev. James Couchman</i>
Secretary	<i>Mrs. James (Virginia) Huggett</i>
Organist and Program Director	<i>Mrs. Tim (Susan) Smith</i>
Custodian	<i>Rudolph (Delia) Holloway</i>

For the preparation of this volume, we were fortunate in having two early religious histories of Poquoson and documented in two page sources. The first is the 1907 Parish History and Register published by the Virginia State Library. The second is the 1960 Bicentennial History of Tabernacle United Methodist Church (Trinity's parent church) published on the occasion of their one-hundred-and-fiftieth (150th) anniversary. Both are available in the Poquoson Public Library and will be very interesting to every reader, old and new.

The first history of Trinity, written twenty-five years ago by a committee headed by Mr. Arthur H. Page, has been a valuable source of material for us. It is tragic that we are unable to say that the early work is being continued. It is because some additional material is available to us which Mr. Arthur and his committee did not have.

We are not historians nor authors . . . we have a sincere and abiding love for our God and our church . . . we are proud that we and our families have been privileged to share in its growth. It is our genuine desire that all who love Trinity will find this volume informative.

Editorial Committee: Mrs. Alton (Bette) White, Mrs. E. Burdette (Gladys) Leemore, Mrs. Charles (Pauline) Lescell, Mrs. Gividen (Dowell) White, Miss Mary Carmine, Mr. Arnold Page, Mrs. Franson (Sarah) Watkins and Mrs. Carroll F. (Janice) Forney, Chairman.

FOREWORD

When in the course of daily affairs, it becomes desirable to prepare a history of a particular era, for a community or an organization, any individual who might be requested to perform this service would do well to assume an expression of horror and take up residence immediately on Black Walnut Ridge until others complete the task.

Since Trinity United Methodist Church has a few brave (or imprudent) souls around, a committee was gathered which undertook the fascinating and fun chore of preparing this document on the one-hundredth (100th) anniversary of the organization of the church. This will not be written in the third person since the members of this committee feel deeply rooted in Trinity's present and, God willing, we will continue to contribute to Trinity's future.

A wealth of material was available to us. Many members, current and past, have been most generous in sharing their old records, photographs, and personal memories. In spite of this, there will be some person, event, or contribution left unnoted herein. For all such omissions, we apologize in advance. It is regrettable that there are gaps in the continuity of our records.

In the preparation of this volume, we were fortunate in having the early religious background of the Poquoson area documented in two major sources. The first is the Charles River Parish History and Register published by the Virginia State Library. The second is the excellent history of Tabernacle United Methodist Church (Trinity's parent church) prepared on the occasion of their one-hundred-and-fiftieth (150th) anniversary. Both volumes are in the Poquoson Publik Library and will be very interesting to every Poquosonite, both native and new.

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We are not historians nor authors...we have a sincere and abiding love for our God and our church... we are proud that we and our families have been privileged to share in Trinity's growth. It is our genuine desire that all who love Trinity will find this volume interesting.

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Choir: Ca 1916

Front Row - Left to Right: Men on left are Alfred Forrest, Lem Forrest Sr., George Amory Sr.; Back: George Lawson, Herbert Amory. Men on right are Bob Lee Forrest, Bob Harvey, Bob Manning Holloway, Dr. Royal, Minister; Back: Healy Topping, Joe Forrest, Winnie Forrest. First Row - Ladies left to right are Birdie (Carmines) Evans, Sophie Freeman Moore, Myrtle Callis, Lillian Carmines Powell, Martha Freeman Stroud, Iola Topping Lawson, Emily Firth Smith, Marion Hawkins Page. Second Row - Lillie Forrest, Lillian Topping Lawson, Lola Bradshaw Forrest, Cora Quinn Topping, Maggie Forrest Hopkins, Maggie Pauls Forrest, Lorraine Amory Quinn. Third Row - Eva Chesser Firth, Christine Forrest Watkins, Maggie Weston Freeman, Lula Bell Forrest Quinn, Minerva Hopkins Huggett, "Todie" Freeman Lawson. Forth Row - Sadie Quinn, Sarah Powell Cooke, Maggie Holloway Rollins, Naomi Forrest Hunt, Agnes Holloway Carmines, Alline Forrest. Fifth Row - Mary White Hunt, Martha Powell Firth, Edith Hawkins Watkins, Nannie Page Bradshaw. Sixth Row - Maggie Quinn Rollins, Ada Page Quinn, "Maynie" Rollins Quinn, "Lizzie" Page Wornom.



The photograph on the opposite page is significant in that the sign shown over the door of the church indicates the beginning date of Trinity as 1882. While an earlier history of the church gave the date as 1884 because of some incomplete records, we believe that the founding fathers whose hands fashioned this sign to adorn their second building, had first-hand knowledge that the true beginnings were in 1882!

This group appears to be a ladies missionary group or Bible Class and was taken about 1915. After many consultations with many people (and a few resulting mixed opinions . . .), we believe those in the picture include the following ladies and children:

Left of the steps — 1st row left to right: Mrs. Johnie (Jane) Hopkins holding son, David; Mrs. Clifton (Effie) Carmines with son John Presson in front; Mrs. Ed (Florine) Cox; Mrs. Reginald (Gracie) Forrest; Mrs. John (Emma) Forrest; Unidentified.

2nd Row — Left to right: Mrs. Sadie Cox; Mrs. Steven (Annabel) Holloway holding son Sidney; Mrs. R. M. (Sadie) Holloway holding son Denzil; Mrs. Ed (Bessie) Hubbard; Mrs. Knight (Ida) Ward.

In front of door — left to right: Mrs. William (Miss Van) Holloway; Mrs. Elijah (Maggie) Forrest; Mrs. Albert (Dorothy) Firth; Mrs. Baker (Emma) Cox; Mrs. Elisha (Sadie) Lawson; Unidentified.

2nd Row — left to right: Mrs. Herbert (Minnie) Amory; Unidentified; Mrs. Charlie (Annie) Dyson; Unidentified; Mrs. Claytor (Winnie) Rollins.

3rd Row — left to right: Unidentified; Mrs. Eddie Lee (Lizzie) Watkins; Mrs. J. F. (Georgie) Bunting; Mrs. Spencer (Grace) Watkins; Mrs. Lou Quinn; Mrs. John (Pearl) Spivey.

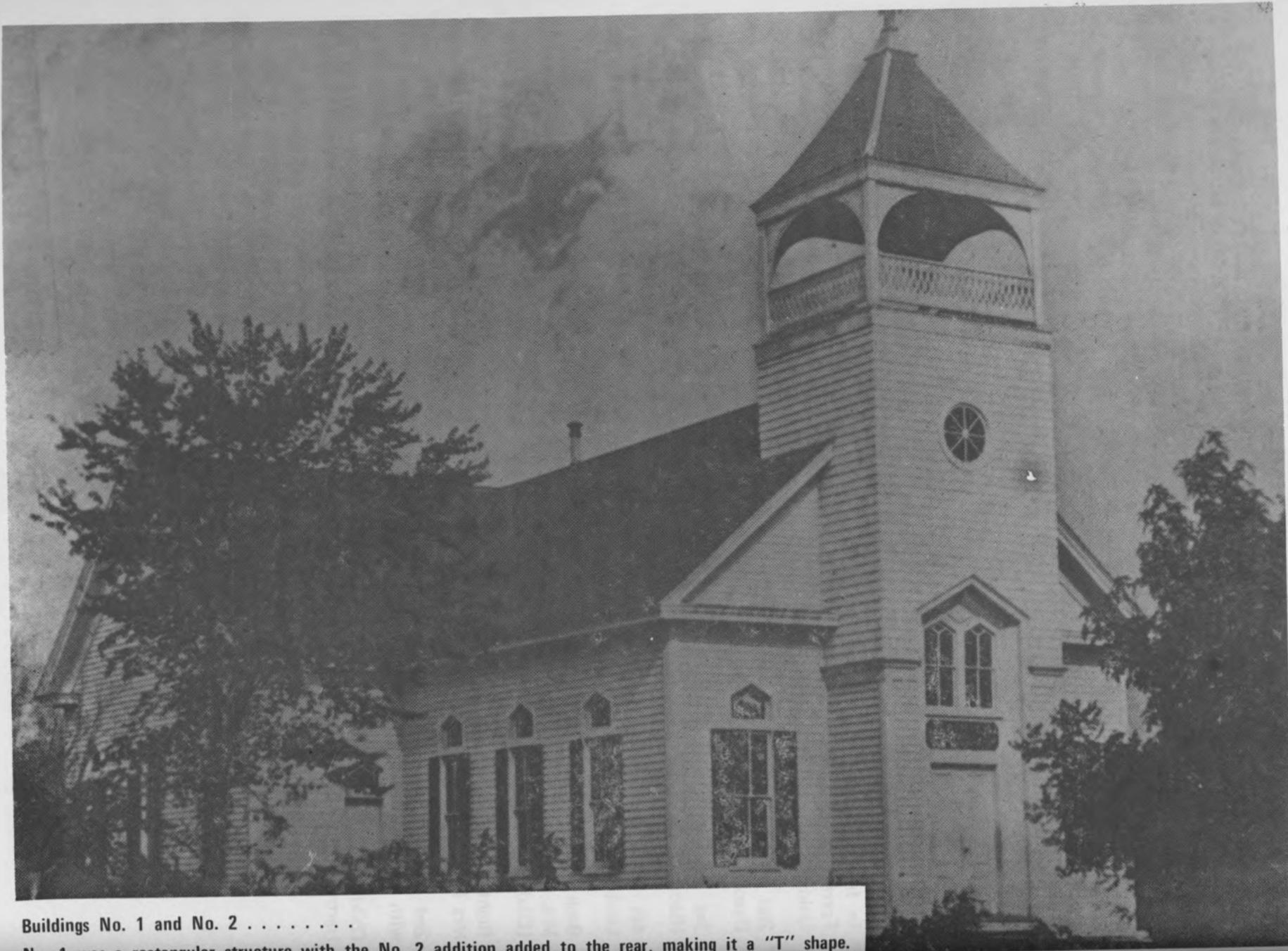
4th Row — left to right: Unidentified; Unidentified; Mrs. Lorenzo (Winnie) Amory; Unidentified.

Back Row — left to right: Mrs. Clinton (Carrie) Ward; Unidentified; Mrs. Perthie Bradshaw; Mrs. Bob (Cotha) Forrest; Mrs. Wm. ("Cilla") Rollins; Mrs. Lorraine Quinn; Mrs. Henry (Ella) Forrest.

Right of door — 1st row left to right: Unidentified; Unidentified; Mrs. Seth (Cass) Ward; Mrs Mae Lawson with daughter Maggie.

2nd Row — left to right: Unidentified; Mrs. W. J. (Lizzie) Insley; Mrs. Will ("Toss") Evans with daughter Mary Emma.

Children standing in center in front are believed to include the following: Lem Firth; Hartness Lawson; Charlene Amory Ward and Inez Forrest Martin.



Buildings No. 1 and No. 2

No. 1 was a rectangular structure with the No. 2 addition added to the rear, making it a "T" shape.



Building No. 3 and No. 4

Photograph made in the mid 1930's.



6

Groundbreaking Ceremony - September 28, 1958 - Multipurpose Room Complex . . .

Left to Right: Mrs. Houston (Emily Holloman) Eason, Mrs. Fayette (Helen Ward) Forrest, Mr. Lester Gaines, Mr. Henry B. Hunt Sr., Mr. Carroll Elwood Forrest, Mr. Robert (Bob Munning) Holloman, Dr. Harry Swan, Houston Eason, Mrs. Billie (Mary Robbins) Dunn, Mr. Charles Powell, Mr. Forrest, Dr. William P. Watson, Mr. Arthur T. Page, Mr. Charles Powell.



Sanctuary 1922 - 1950

Overhead decorations - Metal, left center - choir loft with organ. Old baptist of 1902 standing directly behind current baptist. Note the clock on wall of old baptist. Note the shape of newer pews (close-up) with old pews in center right behind open (closed with overhead slide) wall.

Land for the first building at Trinity was deeded by William Thomas Carmines to Trustees Edward Bradshaw, Elias Holloway, Robert J. Forrest, Elisha Lawson, G. W. Page, William S. Watkins and Henry Watkins. The lot was located on the north side of Church Road and the western side of Poquoson Avenue at the intersection. Both roads, at that time, were narrow dirt lanes, either muddy or dusty, seldom a happy medium. From Poquoson Avenue to the west, land included the cemetery space behind Building No. 3. From Church Street to the north, the line ran to the present sidewalk entering the office area. This transaction is recorded in York County Deed Book 20, Page 519, with the price registered as \$35.00, and the final date of transfer was 19 August 1884.

The Building Committee had as Chairman, Solomon Evans, with members J. Frank Amory, Edward Bradshaw, Elias Rosser Holloway and Elisha Lawson.

Lumber for the structure was purchased from a mill in Suffolk, Virginia. Transportation to Amory's Wharf was provided by Cap'n. John Lemuel Bradshaw in his Chesapeake Bay freight boat. This vessel normally carried oysters and produce from the southern bay area and Eastern shore to Baltimore and Philadelphia. Hauling the lumber from the wharf to the building site was accomplished by James Taylor Rollins who provided his own trusty steeds.

It is interesting to note here that each of the gentlemen mentioned above have descendants, either direct or collateral, serving Trinity after one hundred years.

The builder (architect) was John D. Hosier who answered the call to the ministry shortly afterward. When he left Messick, he took with him as his bride, Elizabeth Holloway, a local girl. He served as a minister for forty-four years.

The parking lot across the street on the east side of Poquoson Avenue was the next acquisition. C. L. Watkins and his wife, Jeanette, sold the property to Trustees Solomon C. Evans, Robert J. Forrest, Edward Bradshaw and William Freeman for \$100.00. The deed is dated 15 June 1903, and is recorded in York County Deed Book 26, Page 318.

Elisha Lawson Sr. served as Chairman of the first Board of Trustees, with the other members named above.

Building No. One was used as sanctuary and church school with all classes meeting in separate corners: Ladies, Men, Youth and Children. In spite of the conditions, which now would be labeled primitive and unsuitable, the early nineteen hundred's found Trinity experiencing severe growing pains. A second building was planned and completed in 1902. This structure was also made of wood. It formed a "T" across the westward end of the previous building. The pulpit was moved back to the west wall of the addition. The contractor was Tommie Phillips, a Poquoson resident.

There was an active "Amen" corner. Records do not indicate whether it was in the north or south wing, but memory assures us that it was "active". It was during this period that the church had the services of one of the truly gifted and dedicated ministers of Methodism. The Rev. Mr. J. E. Potts not only led many souls into the kingdom, he provided sons to follow in his ministerial footsteps. Today he would be pleased to note that another generation follows his example.

Prior to this period, and continuing until his death, a dedicated "local" (or lay) preacher, Cap'n. Robert James (Bob) Forrest served his fellow members in varied ways. He

led the singing at church and church school services, exhorted the congregation during revivals, sat with the ill and dying, counseled the troubled and preached funerals.

Mr. Peter James Insley of Bay Street told us of his boyhood memories and "Cap'n. Bob". He said that the "regular minister" lived in the parsonage in Grafton since he served four churches; Tabernacle, Zion, Providence and Trinity. Sickness, prior commitments, bad weather, coupled with the extensive area he served, kept him away sometimes when he was sorely needed. This caused each current minister to be greatly concerned, and it also caused Cap'n. Bob to be much on call. Mr. Insley recounted one occasion and he is quoted almost verbatim: "There was a death on the (outer) ridges and he (Cap'n. Bob) was sent for. Even though it was cold and rainy and tide was runnin' full, we knew he wouldn't let us down. I was sent to look for him and I can see him now . . . comin' across the gut from the next ridge, with his hip boots pulled up, his sou'wester on, and his overcoat flappin' in the wind; but he had on his good suit and a neck tie. Without him, many folks hereabout would have had to be put away (buried) without proper words being said over them."

Trinity and Tabernacle, as the eastern portion of the York Charge, frequently held revivals together in a "bush arbor". The Rev. Mr. Potts mentions them several times in his diaries and Mrs. Carroll (Carrie) Moore recalled that one of them was built in a grove of trees which were located approximately where the Poquoson Middle School football field now is. On another occasion, one was located in the general area of the Paul's home across the street from the Poquoson Fire Department.

In preparing a "bush arbor", ropes and nets were strung from tree to tree and bushes were cut and laid on the top of this network. People brought quilts or rugs from home in their buggies or carts, and sat on them on the ground. Shade and ventilation were enjoyed, and smoky fires and citronella tended to discourage the attendance of (yes, even then) Poquoson's mosquitoes.

The early 1920's found a recurrence of growing pains and construction of building No. three was planned. This structure was to be of brick and is today's sanctuary. The first building was torn down to make room on the site, and the second building was kept attached as church school space.

The graves of members which were beside the older smaller structure, and which would be covered by the newer one, were a source of concern. At the option of their living relatives, these bodies were either moved to other cemeteries or left under the new sanctuary. Building No. 3 cost \$33,000 and was paid for in eight years. Some of the most regular and generous contributors to this fund were totally unaware of their gifts!

On Sundays, the barnyard inhabitants of the church area, not being churchgoers, continued their usual habits. The horse, undoubtedly noted that it was not hitched to the plow, but to the surry or buggy or whatever. The cows were milked and fed as usual. The pigs ate blissfully as always, still unaware of their coming day of reckoning.

But The Hens . . . Ah, those hardworking, happy little busybodies . . . They Contributed! The rooster arose and in his usual obnoxious way awakened his flock and the people in his immediate neighborhood. Having accomplished his major activity of the day, he probably went back to bed. The hens, not really caring what day it was, sang doing what came naturally, laying their beautiful brown, white and speckled eggs. These were carefully

gathered by the mistress of the home. On Monday, the ladies of the church moved about the area collecting these eggs for the Building Fund. They were carried to local stores (possibly Henry White, Frank Insley, Bob Lee Forrest, Ellen Burge, Eddie Lee Watkins, Floyd Durette, A. D. Page, Lizzie Ward, Tom Kea, Fred Martin — to name some of the "participating" store owners). The money derived from these sales of "Sunday Eggs" was then given to the church.

If you believe the above is a funny story having no real place in Trinity's history, please note that these busy little creatures are credited with paying approximately \$10,000 on Building No. Three. It is still debated as to which group expended the most effort.... The church ladies who collected and sold the eggs, or their feathered friends upon whom the entire project depended.

Also busy with collecting these funds were "Junior Stewards" whose members included Austin Carmines, Rob Holloway and Maywood Forrest. Building Committee No. Three named R. L. (Bob Lee) Forrest as Chairman with Members W. R. (Bob Manning) Holloway, Littleton Insley Jr., Healy Topping, Robert T. Hawkins, John R. Pauls, George W. Amory Sr. and Wes Topping. This structure had a seating capacity of approximately seven hundred and fifty people. The pulpit was in the southwest corner of the sanctuary with the minister's study opening from that corner, with an entrance from Church Road. Entrance to the Sunday School rooms was through the west wall into the second building. This opening could be closed during church services by a wooden slide, or left open to allow for additional seating. Growth called for another change in the early 1930's. A modern brick structure replaced Building No. 2, which was razed. Departmentalized classrooms were provided from Nursery through the adult Bible classes, together with a kitchen, restrooms and utility rooms. Davis Construction of Richmond was the builder and the debt was paid and the note burned on October 31, 1943, during the ministry of the Rev. Mr. C. A. Turner Jr.

This Building Committee had for its Chairman, W. R. (Bob Manning) Holloway, with Joseph J. Burge as Vice Chairman, Henry W. White as Treasurer, and W. Herbert Amory as Secretary. Other members were Littleton Insley Jr., L. S. Page, T. C. (Shag) Holloway, John W. Pauls Sr., Steven D. Holloway, W. M. Rollins, R. L. (Bob Spider) Forrest, J. W. Insley, J. F. Bunting Sr., R. A. (Bob Early) Holloway, and M. Buren Rollins. Following Mr. White's death, Paul Hunt served briefly as Treasurer. When he resigned, Ira B. Forrest was elected and served until the debt was paid in full.

There were five hundred and eighty-six members present when the building was used the first time on February 1, 1931. Membership and attendance increased until one Sunday during the ministry of the Rev. Dr. W. Douglas Williams, more than eight hundred attended Sunday School, an all-time high.

During the late 1940's it was determined that extensive repairs needed to be made to the sanctuary. About the same time, it became known that the "Music Club" (youth chorus) had accumulated approximately \$10,000 toward the purchase of a pipe organ. The two projects were combined and when Dr. Williams arrived in the fall of 1950, he preached his first sermon in the Messick Theater. This building has been renovated and is now a dwelling located on the northeast corner of Poquoson Avenue and Trinity Circle. The owners of this theater made it available without cost to the Trinity congregation during the construction period.

An organ room was added above the Wesley Fellowship Classroom and the pulpit and choir loft were moved from the corner to the center of the west wall of the sanctuary. Pews were refurbished and relocated and the new Reuter Organ was installed. Dr. Williams' delight was obvious to all when he finally had a real pulpit (not a stage) to preach from with his choir behind him for support. Mr. W. Herbert Amory served as Chairman of the Building Committee with members R. Crooks Lawson, William M. Rollins, Carroll T. Forrest, W. W. Joyner, and Arthur J. Page.

The architects were Williams, Coile & Blanchard of Newport News, and the contractor was R. Randolph Rollins, a Poquoson native.

The newest addition occurred in 1958. Its 9480 sq. ft. contains classrooms, offices, restrooms, storage space, kitchen and a chapel much used for small group meetings and weddings. There is also a multi-purpose room with a full-sized basketball court and shuffleboard inlaid in the tiles. This is much in demand for larger church activities as well as community projects.

During World War II when fuel was rationed and it was very expensive to heat the church for very small gatherings, the home of Mary White Hunt and her husband Paul was sold to the church. This included an "el" shaped lot which fronted on both Poquoson Avenue and Ridge Road. The only trustee listed was W. Herbert Amory and the cost recorded was \$10.00. Deed Book 60A, Page 207 records the date of sale as December 6, 1944. It was used as a "community house" until November 1, 1950 when the property was sold to Carroll T. and Jessie F. Forrest.

When the East York charge consisting of Trinity and Tabernacle Churches, was split into two stations in 1950, Trinity had immediate need of a parsonage. Since the transaction was made prior to the appointment of trustees for Trinity, L. I. Burcher is the only trustee listed. He served on the board for both churches prior to the separation. York County Deed Book 70, Page 379, records the purchase from Bob and Bernice Phillips of the house on Church Street. The date shown is 12 September 1950, and the price \$2000.00.

Property next door to the church on the north became available and was purchased on March 5, 1956. York County Deed Book 107, Page 222 records the sale by Blanche Forrest and Lester Adriansen, her husband, to Trustees Henry B. Hunt Sr., W. W. Joyner, Arthur J. Page, William Rollins and Vernon Watkins.

Soon after this purchase, Norman O. and Nellie Bunting Paul sold their lot adjoining the church to trustees W. W. Joyner, H. B. Hunt Sr., A. J. Page, W. M. Rollins and Vernon Watkins for \$6500.00 for one-quarter acre and a frame dwelling. This is recorded in York County Deed Book 116, Page 487, and the date was October 18, 1956. The frame building was moved across Poquoson Avenue to the northeast corner of the parking lot where a volunteer fire department had been started and served as meeting room until the new fire station was built near the Poquoson Elementary School.

The need for a larger parsonage brought about the purchase of the home of Woodrow and Sally Evans at 75 Lodge Road (listed on the deed as "Topping Lane"). The cost listed was \$18,000.00 and the date was July 22, 1960. Trustees listed were W. W. Joyner, A. J. Page, H. B. Hunt Sr., W. M. Rollins Sr. and Charles Powell.

The last property acquired was the present parsonage at 21 Lodge Road. It was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Downes and is recorded in York Deed Book 315, Page 201. Only \$10,000.00 and "other considerations" are shown as price. Trustees listed are James Teague, John S. Carmines, G. S. Forrest and T. Judson Lane.

Purchased several years ago from the John Andrew Forrest estate is the parking lot across Church Road from the sanctuary.

Trinity's Parsonages:

The earliest parsonage which received Trinity's portion for upkeep was the two-story frame dwelling in Cockletown (now Grafton). This home was supported by Zion Church in Seaford, Providence in Dare, Tabernacle located halfway between Odd and Jeffs, and Trinity in Messick. From Trinity's founding in 1882 until 1901, this was the home of her minister.

In 1901, when the York Charge was split into two sections, Trinity became part of the East York Charge along with its mother church, Tabernacle. The home of the minister then became a two-story frame dwelling at Jeffs, Virginia, now Poquoson Avenue.

When growth on the East York Charge caused it to be separated into two stations, in 1950, there were very few available houses in the Messick area from which to select. The most desirable was the home of Bob and Bernice Phillips at Church Road, just behind the church building and across the road. This two-story frame dwelling housed Trinity's pastor until 1960.

In 1960, the brick two-story home at 75 Lodge Road, owned by Woodrow and Sally Evans was purchased for residence of the ministers of Trinity.

In 1978, the two-story brick home at 21 Lodge Road was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Downes. It had been built only a short time before by Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Hunt Jr. The comfortable residence serves the families of Trinity's ministers. The church has been served several times by Associate Pastors and their homes were rented by the church, except for the Rev. C. Ambrose Turner, who commuted from his home in Norfolk. Two homes were secured in Poquoson, one on Brown's Neck Road the other on Cedar Road.

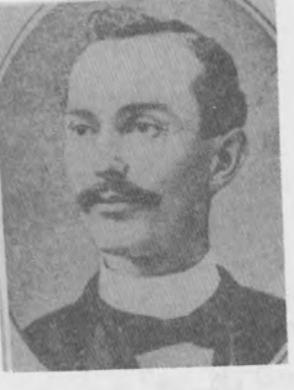
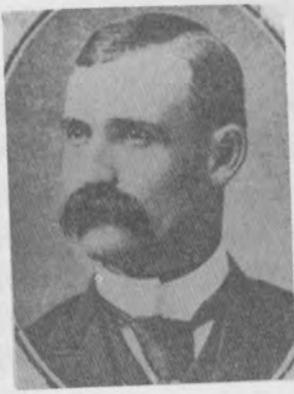
Bishops — 1882 — 1982

Keener	1882	Wilson	1908
Granbury	1886	Morrison	1909
Key	1887	Wilson	1910
Granbury	1888	Kilgo	1911
Wilson	1889	Wilson	1912
Hargrove	1890	Denny	1913
Keener	1891	Kilgo	1914
Hendrix	1892	Candler	1915
Granbury	1893	Kilgo	1916
Haygood	1894	Hoss	1917
Galloway	1895	Hendrix	1918
Duncan	1896	McMurry	1921
Fitzgerald	1897	Candler	1922
Hargrove	1898	Denny	1926
Wilson	1899	Beauchamp	1930
Duncan	1900	Muzon	1931
Hendrix	1903	Arthur J. Moore	1937
Wilson	1904	Walter W. Peele	1938
Galloway	1905	Paul N. Garber	1950
Hendrix	1906	William Candler	1978
Galloway	1907	Wm. Blackburn	1980

Presiding Elders and District Superintendents 1882 — 1981

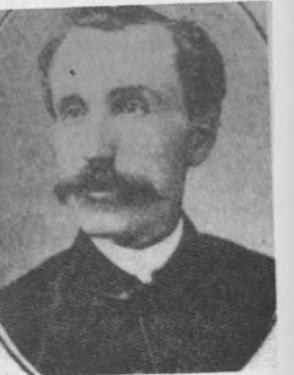
Joseph A. Proctor	1882
W. E. Judkins, D.D.	1884
J. H. Amiss	1886
Josiah D. Hank	1888
Paul Whitehead, D.D.	1890
A. G. Brown	1894
R. T. Wilson	1898
J. Powell Garland, D.D.	1899
R. H. Bennett	1902
W. V. Tudor, D.D.	1903
Eugene H. Rawlings	1907
R. Findlay Gayle	1908
Wm. G. Boggs	1909
George W. Jones	1913
T. McN. Simpson	1917
J. J. Bradford	1920
George W. Jones	1924
Reginald H. Potts	1928
John T. Bosman	1929
Wm. Archer Wright	1932
Thomas F. Carroll	1935
Walter C. Gumm	1939
Frank L. Wells	1945
Edgar A. Potts	1950
W. Kenneth Haddock	1952
Wm. P. Watkins	1954
R. Oman Bryant	
W. Douglas Newman	
Ferd Wagner	

Ministers Who Served Trinity 1882/1902 on the York Charge, Shared with Tabernacle, Providence and Zion Churches:



(Not pictured - J. H. Crown-1882/83, J. S. Morris-1883/84) Top Row - Left to Right: J. E. McSparran-1884/86, Chas. R. Taylor-1886/90, Jos. E. Potts-1890/94. Next Row - Left to Right: Chas. E. Hobday-1894/1897, J. S. Wallace-1897/98, L. J. Phaup-1898/1901, and J. W. Nickolson-1901/03.

Those Who Served Trinity 1902/1950 on the East York Charge Shared with the Mother Church, Tabernacle:

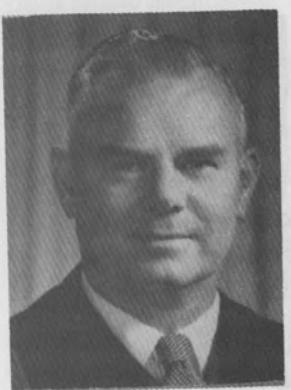


Left to Right: D. J. Traynham-1904/07, J. E. DeShazo-1907/09, W. J. Williams-1909/11, and J. S. Wallace-1911/12.



Top Row - Left to Right: R. N. Hartness-1912/14, W. W. Royall-1914/18, J. R. Eggleston-1918/22, H. L. Weston, 1922/23. Middle Row - A. W. Roten-1923/24, W. L. Burks-1924/28, Herman L. Hastings-1928/32, Lee G. Crutchfield-1932/35. Bottom Row - B. E. Hutson-1935/39, C. A. Turner, Jr.-1939/43, Ira Astin-1943/47, and Ralph J. Yow-1947/50.

Ministers Who Have Served Trinity as a Station Since 1950:



Top Row - Left to Right: D. Williams-1950/57, H. K. Swann-1957/59, E. B. Wright-1959/62. Middle Row - E. N. Hassell-1962/63, Dr. & Mrs. Amos-1963/65, M. O. Davis (Assoc.)-1964/65. Bottom Row - W. D. Walters-1965/69, C. A. Turner, Jr. (Assoc.)-1967/69, and J. W. Brown-1969/70.

Top Row - Left to Right: H. L. Hicks-1970/76, A. W. Green (Assoc.)-1970/72, W. McMahon (Assoc.)-1972/74. Middle Row - B. T. Clark-1976/77, T. Landis-1977/78, and C. F. Nuckols-1978/82.

The ministers who became a part of Trinity and its people, left their imprints in many ways. Each was remembered by different individuals in varied ways. Church members have named their offspring after C. T. Taylor, Charles Hobday, J. S. Wallace, Leroy Phaup, David J. Traynham, R. N. Hartness, W. W. Royall, W. Douglas Williams — to name a few.

They remember that Mr. Hobday was outspoken. Mr. Traynham had dancing eyes and an active sense of humor. Mr. DeShazo possessed a six-foot-one frame and a commanding voice. Mr. Royall's health was ruined by his drive to serve. Of them all, Mr. Potts, even now, instills a sense of awe as his "journal" is reread and digested. His energy was phenomenal. Here are a few excerpts from that dairy which should interest Trinity members:

"2 May (Sat) 1891— Went to James T. Rollins' — married John A. Forrest and Alice G. Rollins. Went to Sam Rollins', J. Frank Amory's. Came back to Sam Rollins' and staid (sic) all night.

"6 June (Sat) 1891— Went to J. T. Nottingham's, took dinner (lunch) at Webb Riggins', Went to church conference at Tabernacle — only two out — Went to Cap'n Ed Bradshaw's, staid all night, held church conference at Trinity, visited Frank Amory's, Healy Topping's, Syphon Forrest's, George Amory's store, and Tom Evans'.

"7 June 1891 (Sun)— Went to Tabernacle Sunday School, preached at Tabernacle, took dinner at Widow Messick's, preached at Trinity, staid all night at Elisha Lawson's.

"4 Oct. (Sun) 1891— Genie (son Eugene) left. I went to Tabernacle, preached, took dinner at Jeff Rowe's, went to Trinity. Rev. Crooks preached. I went to Izora Forrest's to supper and staid all night at George Amory's.

"5 Oct. (Mon) 1891— Izora Forrest and I went to Cornelius Forrest's, Henry Forrest's, Billy Graham's, John H. Bradshaw's, George Martin's, Bill Hopkins', John Lee Hopkins', Jim Hopkins', George Watts', Moses Martin's, John Furgusson's, took dinner, Henry Cole's, Miles Pauls', W. D. Pauls', John Pauls', Thomas Pauls', G. D. Bradshaw's, John Bradshaw's, Jim Martin's, J. T. Forrest's, Joseph Messick's, Thomas Messick's, Brink Martin's, West Messick's, John Pauls', George Page's, James Page's, W. Joiner's, John Johnson's, came to wheelwright shop in Messickville, had singletree tied up (broke during the day), stopped at George Amory's a few minutes, left Izora at her father's and came home.

"6 June (Mon) 1892—I went to J. F. Amory's — R. J. Forrest's — took breakfast with J. F. Amory — went to Sam Rollins' store — White's store — Sam Rollins' store and house. Then Miss Jennie Rollins and I went to E. L. Watkins', Robert Watkins', Jim Watkins', Frank Carmines', John Watkins', George Carmines', Sydney Watkins', Littleton Watkins', Charles Carmines', John Ward's, Wesley Ward's, Eddie Quinn's, W. J. Bradshaw's, Ben Quinn's, Henry Forrest's, Wm. Weston's, Curt Page's, Abraham Forrest's, R. M. Watkins', (baptized his little daughter), John Powell's, J. B. Rollins', Dolby Forrest's, J. T. Rollins', I then

left Miss Jennie Rollins' at her fathers. I went to G. W. Amory's and took dinner. (Note: Can you believe all this visiting before lunch?) Then I went to W. J. Bradshaw's (not the family referred to above), Cary Watkins', W. T. Carmines', J. W. Rollins', D. W. Carmines', S. O. Carmines', Henry Watkins', J. S. Forrest's, H. N. Forrest's, J. L. Bradshaw's, W. E. Bradshaw's, Eddie Bradshaw's, T. C. Evans', W. E. Evans', went back and got my horse and jumper from G. W. Amory's, went to J. F. Amory's — staid all night.

"9 Feb. 1894—

Today I am sixty-three years old — I feel deeply impressed with the necessity of being more holy — time on earth is short — I have read the Bible — constantly prayed — reconsecrated myself to God — the remainder of the day I have used in studying my sermons — also Genie, Hollie, Blanchard and I made a few chicken nests."

This man had no power steering, air-conditioning or heater in his "jumper". We are told this vehicle was a cross between a buggy and a sulkie. His dedication is awe-inspiring.

He reminds us of Lee G. Crutchfield who did not even have a horse and jumper! This minister walked the roads of Messick, Jeffs, and Odd daily — covering his Lord's work in Trinity and Tabernacle congregations. His stamina, zeal and devotion surpassed many of his peers and most of his parishioners.

Also remembered is Douglas Williams who became a part of Trinity to such an extent that he not only remembered the names of every church child, he also knew the names of their dogs.

With leaders such as these, Trinity could only grow and prosper.

The Ladies of Trinity have been of inestimable value to the growth of the church. In addition to the endless duties of being wives, mothers and career women, they have always found time from these tasks to devote endless hours to the work of God and the community.

Usually the ladies see a need before others are aware of it, and they have their special ways of getting their children and menfolk to act on their ideas. We found it nearly impossible to write the history of the ladies by dividing it into the Bible Class and the Methodist Women since most people who are active in one, are active in both. Both groups have been blessed with an abundance of talent and dependable Christian leadership has been outstanding without failure through the years.

Many commitments have been asked of these ladies and they always responded happily. Local church obligations, as well as district and conference commitments have been met year after year.

Shut-ins, both hospital and home, have had many days gladdened by the receipt of a card from The Bible Class and/or a Circle, reminding them that someone knows about their situation and that someone cares.

The Bible Class has been fortunate in having the services of dedicated teachers through the years. Among them have been Mrs. Herman (Irene Watkins) Forrest, Ira B. Forrest, Mrs. R. S. (Eunice) Holloway, Joseph Freeman, Will Quinn, Tom (Epps) Forrest.

A Daily Press article on September 27, 1944, carried the information that the following had just been elected to offices in the Bible Class: President — Mrs. John (Pearl) Spivey, 1st Vice President — Mrs. Clarence (Della) Johnson, Second Vice President — Mrs. Herbert (Minnie) Amory, Secretary — Mrs. Robert (Janie) Copeland, Asst. Secretary — Mrs. Cecil (Birdie) Evans, Treasurer — Mrs. Will (Joyce) Graham, Pianist — Mrs. Maywood (Sara) Forrest, Asst. Pianist — Mrs. Lem (Lillie) Forrest, Worship Chairman — Mrs. John B. (Helen) Graham, Card Committee Chairman — Mrs. William (Mary) Sterling, Flower Committee Chairmen — Mrs. Sam (Cora) Lawson and Mrs. Joe (Della) Freeman.

Will Quinn was elected teacher and Mrs. Fred (Fannie) Carmines was elected Assistant Teacher.

The Woman's Missionary Society of Trinity Church was organized in 1915 by Dr. W. W. Royall with fifteen charter members. The Officers elected at that time were Mrs. Ella Forrest, President; Mrs. Melissa Forrest, 1st Vice President; Mrs. Cora Carmines, 2nd Vice President; Mrs. Izora Firth, 3rd Vice President; Miss Iola Topping, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Emily Smith, Recording Secretary; and Mrs. Lou Quinn, Treasurer.

Mrs. Ella Forrest was the first delegate to the Annual Missionary Conference. She continued as President until 1923, when Mrs. Lillie Forrest was elected. Mrs. Ella Forrest was again elected as President in 1924. During her presidency, the Society decided to have an all-day missionary rally and invited the Missionary Societies of Tabernacle Methodist and Emmaus Baptist Churches to join them.

The first Rally Day was held at Trinity in March 1919. This enterprise was such a success and so enjoyed that it was decided to make it an annual affair and this Rally Day is still being held after sixty-three years with all three churches still participating.

During this term, the Young People's Missionary Society and the Children's Missionary Society were organized. Mrs. Mary White Hunt was the first leader of the youth group and Mrs. Iola Topping Lawson was the first leader of the children's group.

Mrs. Cotha Diggs Forrest was elected President in 1927. Mrs. Agnes Holloway Carmines, delegate from the Adult Society, and Miss Chrystal Forrest, delegate from the Young People's Society, attended the Annual Missionary Conference at Lynchburg, Virginia.

During this year, the circles of the society were formed and the Young People's Society was terminated and formed into a circle. The first year, One Hundred Dollars and Ninety-three Cents was raised by the circles. Each member gave fifty cents dues, plus a penny per day extra.

Mrs. Cotha Forrest served until 1932. During these years, Mrs. Birdie Carmines Evans and Mrs. Forrest were delegates to the Annual Missionary Conferences. Each circle made a quilt and sent linens to the Methodist Orphanage.

Mrs. Ella Forrest was again elected President in 1932 and served another seven years, making a total of eighteen years as President. She was the first member of Trinity to receive a Life Membership Certificate and pin from the District.

Mrs. Sarah Evans was the first member to receive a Life Membership Certificate from the Society at Trinity.

A Spiritual Life Group was organized in 1932 with a planning Committee of Mrs. Izora Firth, Mrs. Annie Topping and Mrs. Effie Carmines. This prayer group met each Tuesday morning for many years and provided spiritual inspiration to the Society.

Missionary Study Classes were started in 1932. Subject of the first class, taught in October, was "Christ In China".

The Bishop's Crusade in 1937, found the Society members making personal contacts by calling door-to-door on the community.

In 1939, Mrs. Irene Watkins Forrest was elected President and served until 1944. On October 7, 1940, the Rev. C. A. Turner presided over the business session of the Society, explaining that the Society and the Ladies Aid group were being combined into one organization. The ensuing success of this joint group has proven the wisdom of this step.

The Norfolk District Conference was held at Trinity on May 12, 1943. The W.S.C.S. served the luncheon at the "Community House" at 1259 Poquoson Avenue, which the church had acquired from Mr. & Mrs. Paul (Mary White) Hunt.

Mrs. Sarah Moore Forrest served as President during 1944 and 1945. She organized and held Missionary Study Classes each quarter, and a Missionary program was given one Sunday night each month.

Mrs. Della Bunting Johnson was elected as President in 1946, and Mrs. Agnes Holloway Carmines served that office in 1947.

The Rev. Ira Astin was presented a gift of \$100.00 as an expression of appreciation for the work he did on the grounds of the Community House.

During that year, the church observed Fellowship Day in May, and Community Day in November in connection with the Council of Churches.

Mrs. Marion Hawkins Page was elected President in 1948.

When the Wesleyan Service Guild was organized with fourteen charter members, Miss Fannie Ferguson (Mrs. Milford Rollins) was elected its first President. In 1949, the pledge system was adopted in which members pledge their time, talent, money and prayers. The Society has profited from this system and the offerings have doubled. Frequently a special offering was made in addition to the pledges. The rolls increased steadily in size.

Mrs. Martha Bradshaw, our oldest member, was presented a Life Membership Certificate and Pin by the President, Mrs. Page.

From 1952 until 1954, Mrs. Verlyn Bunting Watkins served as President. Youth Activities was observed and the Society served supper to the young people.

Support was given to the Ferrum Emergency Fund, and a set of china was purchased for the parsonage.

Mrs. Chrystal Forrest served the Society as President from 1954 to 1957.

The Peninsula Conference of the W.S.C.S. held a Retreat at Trinity, led by Mrs. Neil, District Secretary of Spiritual Life.

Mrs. Betty Forrest White served as President in 1957 and 1958. The Peninsula District Conference met at Trinity with Mrs. J. A. Ferguson, District President residing.

At the request of Dr. Harvey Swann, Trinity's pastor, the Society arranged an outdoor picnic for the church members over seventy years of age. This party was held on the lawn of Charles and Pauline Leeper. Approximately one hundred persons were served and plates filled with good things to eat were carried to those who were unable to attend because of ill health.

The second "over seventy" party was held at the church in the form of a banquet and dinners were also carried to those unable to attend.

During 1959 and 1960, Mrs. Emily Evans served as President, and a group of ladies visited the United Nations in New York City.

Wesleyan Service Guild No. 1 purchased Choir Robes for the Junior Choir. A bazaar was held on December 3, 1960.

In 1961, Mrs. Mary Quinn served as President, and Mrs. Evans installed Mrs. Dorothy Williams in that position in 1962. She served until 1964.

A piano was purchased for use in a church school classroom stipulation of purchase limited the committee to spend "not more than \$300.00".

Mrs. Ethel Mae Forrest served as President from 1964 to 1966. An Open House was held at the Parsonage for the Rev. & Mrs. Dabney Walters, and all ladies of the church were invited to assist with this project.

In 1966, Mrs. Geraldine Ward was elected President, and was installed by Mrs. Verlyn Watkins. She served until 1968.

The age limit was lowered from 75 to 70 years of age to be made Life Members.

The Marion Page Circle placed a Deacon's Bench in the Ladies' Rest Room.

Mrs. Gladys Lawson was elected President in 1968 and served until 1970.

Ladies of the church made and filled "Ditty Bags" for servicemen in Vietnam.

Mrs. John (Tillie) Smith served as President following Mrs. Lawson, and the tradition of service continued unabated during her term.

Mrs. Dorothy Forrest was elected President in 1974, and Mrs. Betty Watkins succeeded her in 1975. The ladies donated to the kitchen eight chrome coffee servers and gravy boats.

In 1976, Mrs. Mary Jack Henley served as President and a silver service and three serving trays were given to the church. A cookbook, "Cooking In Circles", was compiled by the United Methodist Women. Recipes were collected from members and other good cooks in the community. This was the first time the group made Chrismons for use on the sanctuary tree during the Christmas holidays.

A bazaar was held in 1977 and a profit of \$1,319.50 was made with which a dishwasher was purchased for the kitchen. Forty-eight place settings of flat silverware, twelve dozen punch cups and plates were also purchased. A donation of \$500.00 was made to the Thanksgiving offering. A contribution of \$100.00 was given to Eastern State and Patrick Henry Hospitals.

In 1978, the group presented the Mother's Day Program and Mrs. Leone Edgerton delivered the message. Representatives from each circle participated in this service.

An ice cream social was held on June 18, for Dr. and Mrs. Landis. A silver ladle was presented to the church by Mrs. Asenith Landis.

In 1978, the ladies sent towels, washcloths and numerous other personal items to migrant workers in Cape Charles, Virginia. They also donated \$300.00 to the Chapel Organ Fund, gave drapes to Eastern State Hospital, and purchased tape recorders and tapes to be used to record services and special programs for shut-ins. Two dozen large hurricane globes and candle holders, five dozen punch cups and plates were also donated to Trinity.

Mrs. Henley served until 1979 when Mrs. Susan Rollins Tucker was elected President. The Reading Is Fundamental (R.I.F.) Program was started in Poquoson and the U.M.W. voted to support it.

Mrs. Mary Topping Moore and Mrs. Carrie Forrest planted flowers around the bulletin board at church. The group donated \$300.00 to World Service. They also made additional Chrismsons for the sanctuary tree. In December, they served the District Ministers and their wives at a banquet in the multi-purpose room.

Mrs. Tucker was reelected in 1980. A contribution of \$100.00 was made to a church in India and \$500.00 was given to the Poquoson Ambulance Fund. A banner was made and used in honor of the 200th Anniversary of Sunday Schools. A new carpet for the Chapel was purchased at a cost of \$1,458.18 with proceeds from the annual bazaar.

In 1981, Mrs. Edna Bunting Teague was elected President and the ladies continue to serve giving their love, time talents and expertise wherever needed.



Trinity Ladies' Bible Class about 1925

Front Row - Left to Right: Mr. Ira B. Forrest, teacher; Mrs. MacAllister (Louise) Bradshaw, Mrs. Granville (Va.) Adams, Mrs. Perthy (Nealey Bell) Bradshaw, Mrs. William (Clara Callis) Powell, Mrs. Clifton (Effie Hopkins) Carmines, Mr. John Thomas (Tom Epps) Forrest, teacher. Second Row - Left to Right: Mrs. Cornelius (Sadie Carmines) Forrest, Mrs. Essie (Virginia Holloway) Forrest, Mrs. William (Ada Page) Quinn, Mrs. Clyde (Sarah Powell) Cook, Mrs. Ike (Maude Carpenter) Martin, Mrs. Eddie Lee (Elizabeth Bunting) Watkins, Mrs. Ella Insley, Mrs. Harry (Sally) Evans, Mrs. Will (Mary) Joyner, Mrs. Floyd (Maggie) Rollins, Mrs. Herbert (Minnie Forrest) Amory, Mrs. W. L. Burks (minister's Wife), Mrs. Frank (Martha J.) Insley Sr. Third Row Standing - Left to Right: Mrs. John T. (Laura) Forrest, Mrs. George (Rose Carmines) Evans, Mrs. Floyd (Eva Chesser) Firth, Mrs. John S. (Martha) Forrest, Mrs. Clinton (Carrie Bell) Ward, Mrs. John (Ola Pauls) Forrest, Mrs. W. James (Elizabeth Forrest) Insley, Mrs. Willie (Dolian Carmines) Rowe, Mrs. Elisha (Sadie Bradshaw) Lawson, Mrs. Henry (Ella Lawson) Forrest, Mrs. J. Lemuel (Rosa Watkins) Bradshaw, Mrs. T. C. (Mary) Holloway with son John Eggleston, Mrs. Alfred (Clara) Carmines, Mrs. Lloyd (Mary Carmines) Forrest, Mrs. J. Thomas ("Nicie") Messick, Mrs. Ben (Mary Powell) Pauls, Mrs. Robert (Bernie) Forrest, Mrs. Rufus (Millie) Carmines, Mrs. Winnie (Chrystine Carmines) Forrest, Mrs. Earnie (Addie) Pauls, Mrs. Fred (Hattie) Carmines, Mrs. John (Rilla) Pauls. Back Row - Left to Right: Mrs. Fred (Lonie) Martin, Mrs. Wm. (Fannie) Martin, Mrs. Harry (Maggie) Hopkins, Mrs. Claytor (Winnie) Rollins, Mrs. Robert (Sadie) Holloway, Mrs. R. B. (Crooks Insley) Quinn, Mrs. Henry (Nolie Watkins) Bunting, Mrs. Ira (Beckie) Hopkins, Mrs. Sam (Cora) Lawson, Mrs. J. E. (May) Lawson.



Trinity Ladies' Societies: Ca 1936

Front Row: Left to Right: Mrs. (Addie) Pauls; Mrs. Buren (Maggie) Rollins; Mrs. W. H. (Minnie) Amory; Mrs. Bob (Cotha) Forrest; Mrs. E. H. (Sadie) Lawson; Mrs. Henry (Ella) Forrest. Second Row: Mrs. J. C. (Sadie) Ferguson; Mrs. W. (Fannie) Martin; Mrs. Fred (Lonnie) Martin; Mrs. W. M. (Moge) Huggett; Mrs. Healy (Annie) Topping. Third Row: Mrs. V. M. (Priscilla) Rollins; Mrs. Lem (Mary) Evans; Mrs. Sam (Cora) Lawson; Mrs. Jim (Isora) Firth. Back Row: Mrs. Fred Firth; Mrs. Will (Ada) Quinn; Mrs. Osborne (Maggie) Forrest; Mrs. C. L. (Lillian) Lawson Sr.; Rev. B. E. Hudson, Pastor.

MEN's CLASS

Trinity's men have enjoyed the fellowship, joint worship and learning experience of a strong Men's Bible Class from the beginning. These men have traditionally been regarded as "church fathers". They have supplied leadership to the general church organizations and teachers to the other classes, while maintaining an excellent staff for themselves through the years. Among those who have served as teachers to this class are Bob Hawkins, Joe Freeman, Ira Forrest, Tom Epps Forrest, Steve Holloway, Buren Rollins, Tom Hudgins, Rob Holloway, G. S. Forrest, Harvey Herring, Richard Diggs, Bob Lee Forrest, Richard Gordon Cox, Wallie G. White, Moody Topping, and Lit Insley. Records do not exist that would enable us to name every one who served in this capacity.

Over the years, church emergencies have been carried to this group for assistance and these men have given freely of their time, money and talents. Prior to the establishment of a church committee for local social welfare projects, many Sunday mornings found at least one request for financial assistance for one in need in the local community presented to the class. No one was ever turned away. This group provided the first singers for the very popular George Amos Men's Chorus.

Several years ago, the name "Milton Stores-Luke Firman Bible Class" was adopted to honor two of the class members, now deceased. These were two of God's Special People whose presence is sorely missed. No members of the class were more regular in attendance or worshipped more faithfully through the years. Their limited abilities were ignored and they were always welcomed by their fellow men.



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Men's Bible Class about 1925

Front Row - Left to Right: Rob Quinn, Walter Evans, Peter Rowe, Albert Martin, Bob Allen, Eddie Quinn, Ike Martin, W. Jim Insley, Joe Evans, Bob Insley, Jake Insley, Joe F. Bunting, Tom H. Watkins, Tom Quinn, Lit Insley Jr., Lorenzo Amory, P. Jim Insley, Azrus Page. Second Row - Harry Evans, Ira Hopkins, Will Joyner, John "D" Forrest, Mead Watkins Sr., Jim Bradshaw, Bob Hawkins, W. L. Burks (minister), Bob Lee Forrest, Alfred Carmines, Ben Pauls, Lem Forrest Jr., Granville Adams, Ernie Bradshaw, Perthy Bradshaw, Emmitt Page. Third Row - Milton Stores, Bob (Spider) Forrest, Tom Lee Forrest, George W. Amory Sr., George (Derb) Carmines, Chris Watkins, Rufus Carmines, Willie Quinn, John Lewis Firman, Bill Martin, Floyd Forrest, Mac Bradshaw, Joe Burge, Buren Quinn, Forrest Quinn, Wallie Smith, Sam Lawson, Bob Evans, Herbert Amory, Johnnie E. Lawson, Vaden Insley, Johnie Hopkins, Cecil Quinn, John Pauls, Henry Forrest, George Powell. Back Row - Tom Messick, Alton White, Winnie Forrest, Joe Freeman, George W. Amory Jr., Bill Tom Carmines, Earnie Pauls, Will Graham, Fred Carmines, Harry Hopkins, Tom (Shag) Holloway, Lloyd Forrest, Clif Carmines, Cornelius Forrest, Elisha Lawson, Lem Evans, Sid Evans, Isaac Lawson, Austin Carmines, John (Booker) Insley.



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Men's Club - Ca 1951

Front Row: Left to Right: Harry Evans; John Henley; Arthur Page; Bob (Manning) Holloway; John Pauls; Charlie Powell; Lester Carmines; Will Joyner; Obie Page. Back Row: E. W. (Junie) Page; Herman Forrest; Tom Messick Sr.; Jimmy Teague; Norman Paul Sr.; Lloyd Forrest; W. D. Williams, Pastor; John B. Graham Sr.; Will Quinn; John Lemuel Forrest; Rob Holloway.

Before there was an organized Trinity Methodist Church, a Sunday School was active in the Messick area. It was started by Tabernacle Methodist Church because of their church membership living here. At the first Quarterly Conference in February 1868, for the York Charge, it was reported that there were four Sunday Schools in operation... One, a new school in the Sons of Temperance Hall was mentioned specifically. This "hall" was located on the east side of Poquoson Avenue, across from the end of Lodge Road. It was used for various community meetings and served as a regular day school.

At the Fourth Quarterly Conference in October 1869, the following trustees were elected for "the hall": John L. Amory, Henry Forrest, Elisha Lawson Jr., William S. Watkins, Edward Bradshaw, Elias Rosser Holloway, George W. Page.

Earlier in 1869, the Quarterly Conference gave the following report for the school at "the hall": two (2) superintendents, seven (7) teachers, fifty-five (55) pupils.

The November 1870 report called this group, "Little Tabernacle". Even though not an organized separate church, "Little Tabernacle" was reported to have made regular contributions to the minister's salary.

When the Quarterly Conference met in November 1871, at "Tabernacle Chapel", the Rev. Mr. R. N. Crooks warned, "There has been some dancing among some members of the church which, I fear, was encouraged by some of the old members who ought to be nurturing fathers and mothers of the church."

During the summer of 1872, both Tabernacle and Tabernacle Chapel church schools were suspended because of a smallpox epidemic.

Further report in 1872: "We, the Trustees for Tabernacle Chapel, beg leave to report our house, yet unplastered, otherwise a good house. Will seat 150 persons and worth \$400.00 - Board of Trustees full - George Page, Chairman" August 1870 report noted 110 scholars with 37 officers and teachers at the "New Tabernacle".

Conference reports in March 1871 stated "booth (sic) Tabernacles gave \$76.00 for the pastor's salary". In October of that year at Little Tabernacle, a revival was held with great success through the efforts of Brother Edward Hopkins and others.

At the Quarterly Conference held in June 1884, at Zion Church in Seaford, Robert J. (Cap'n. Bob) Forrest and Henry Watkins were elected trustees of "Little Tabernacle Church", later that year the name was changed Trinity.

Minutes of May 23, 1885, indicated that "Trinity Church was on last Sabbath, dedicated to the worship of God by the Rev. R. N. Sledd, free of debt. Cost was \$1,700.00." October 1886 showed church property valued at \$1,800.00 with parsonage at Cockletown (Grafton) valued at \$2,000.00.

While we are certain that others have served and should be included in the following list, we believe that the people whom we know have served as Church School Superintendents should be acknowledged: George W. Amory Sr., Healy Topping, Joseph M. Holloway and W. R. Holloway . . . through 1941. W. H. Amory, J. Elwood Forrest, Holston C. Evans, Godwin C. White and Henry M. Forrest Jr. . . . after 1941.

During the early days, there were no check books.... There wasn't enough money handled to justify it, perhaps. The usual procedure was to retain the offerings until enough

funds had been accumulated to pay for literature or other supplies. At this point, the treasurer would step over to the post office and purchase a money order to send off.

While the congregation attended to the Lord's work faithfully with personal service and regular worship, and through the regular payment of its church financial obligations, there was still some time for pleasant fellowship as the following excerpts from Old Trinity records will show:

"On July 27th 1910 Trinity Sunday School chartered the steamer "Mobjack" to take the members to West Point on an excursion (sic)." The expenses were as follows:

Charter for steamer	\$200.00
Wharfage	5.00
Bananas & Lemons	12.35
Pop Sundries & Labor	14.88
Ice	1.00
Ice Cream	21.50
Total expenses	\$254.73
Sales, tickets, ice cream, etc.	188.35
Total cost to school	\$ 66.38

The following is from the Minute Book of Sunday School from 1911 through 1920:

5 Nov. 1911 - Committee appointed for Christmas tree entertainment program: Miss Mattie Rollins, Miss Octavia Weston, Miss Lillie Forrest, Miss Ola Pauls, Miss Mollie Forrest; the next Sunday Miss Mattie and Miss Lillie declined and Mrs. Henry (Maggie S.) White and Mrs. Lemuel (Missouri) Forrest replaced them.

7 July 1912 - Miss Ola Topping was elected organist of the Sunday School.

23 Mar. 1913 - Children's Day Committee - Mrs. Lemuel (Missouri Watkins) Forrest, Mrs. Henry (Maggie Forrest) White, Mrs. Ira B. (Lola Bradshaw) Forrest, Miss Octavia Weston and Miss Maggie Carmines.

Note: Sexton's fee throughout this period was \$3.50 per month.

28 Sept. 1913 - It was moved and passed unanimously to lend the Committee to Erect the Bell \$86.00 to \$100.00. Note: No record was found as to the actual cost of the bell or just when it was installed.

16 Nov. 1913 - Christmas Entertainment Committee: Mrs. Lemuel (Missouri) Forrest, Mrs. Robert (Bernie) Forrest, Mrs. John D. (Ola) Forrest, Mrs. Ira B. (Lola) Forrest, and Miss Octavia Weston. Mrs. Lola Forrest was given \$1.15 for cheesecloth and crepe paper supplies.

21 Mar. 1915 - Children's Day Committee: Misses Carrie Watkins, Bertie Carmines, Agnes Holloway, Loraine Amory, Lizzie Page, Lillian Topping.

4 April 1915 - Poor attendance (71 total) on account of the great storm!

19 Dec. 1915 - Committee to get tree: Emmett Page, Frank Topping, Herbert Amory, Mitchell Rollins, Calvin Page. Committee to get candy apples: Healy Topping, Walter Evans and Littleton Insley.

27 Aug. 1916 — Committee of 3 males and 3 females to discuss plans for curtaining the school classes for privacy: R. L. Forrest, A. D. Page, H. Topping, Iola Lawson, Cotha Forrest and Lou Quinn.
This committee recommended separating into 4 or 5 groupings.
They were then requested to report the cost.

10 Dec. 1916 — Committee for Christmas supplies: R. T. Hawkins, A. D. Page, R. L. Forrest, J. F. Forrest and H. Topping. (Getting the tree in 1915 must have been real fun — note the increase in the size of the committee)
Committee to get the tree — Emmitt Page, Peter Lawson, Mitchell Rollins, Lloyd Forrest, Lloyd Amory, Frank Topping, Alfred Carmines, Austin Carmines, Blanchard Forrest and Tom Hope Watkins.

16 Dec. 1916 — Alfred Forrest resigned as "Chorister" and Brother Joe Freeman was selected to replace him.

18 Dec. 1917 — Brother Ira Forrest was elected Treasurer of the Sunday School. Sister Ella Forrest was elected Sec. Treas. of Cradle Roll.

10 Nov. 1918 — Christmas Committee: Mrs. Lou Quinn, Mrs. Paul Hunt, Mrs. Emmitt Page, Miss Edith Hawkins, Miss Gertie Topping, Miss Pauline Amory. Special police appointed to keep order during rehearsal: George E. Page and Henry T. Forrest.

6 Oct. 1918 — No school due to influenza epidemic.

8 Dec. 1918 — Healy Topping held his first session of Sunday School as Supt. Since his election. He served until 1941. Mrs. Lillie Forrest was elected Sunday School organist.

22 Dec. 1918 — Committee for Christmas Tree program, Thursday, Dec. 26 . . .
Purchasing Committee — I. B. Forrest, R. T. Hawkins, J. F. Forrest.
Christmas Package Committee — Lit Insley, Pauline Amory, Naomi Forrest, Edith Hawkins.
Decorating Committee — Christine Forrest, Christine Carmines, Virginia Evans, Beamon Forrest, Earl Holloway, George Amory Jr., Vaden Hope Holloway, Alden Page, Gertie Topping, Naomi Forrest, Edith Hawkins.

1 Feb. 1920 — A. D. Page elected Treasurer of Sunday School.

21 Aug. 1924 — Trinity Sunday School picnic, August 21, 1924 at Trinity Church.

Receipts from sale of ice cream and sodas	\$50.15
Receipts from sale of lumber	<u>16.05</u>
Total receipts	\$ 66.20
Disbursements:	
Ice cream	\$59.25
Assorted drinks	15.25
Lumber for stand	19.80
Cherry Cola	4.55
Labor	2.00
Programs & tickets	<u>5.50</u>
Total disbursements	\$106.35
Cost to School	\$ 40.15

11 Aug. 1932 — Trinity Sunday School picnic at Grand View Beach . . .

Expenses:		
Irene Watkins for prizes	\$ 3.00	
E. C. Smith — truck, ice & refreshments	31.00	
Fred Martin — truck	5.00	
G. L. Patzel (sic) — truck	5.00	
A. K. Ward — truck	5.00	
P. B. Hunt	<u>5.00</u>	
Total	\$54.00	

During this picnic, several children from the Methodist Children's Home in Richmond were brought to Grandview to meet families with whom they spent the summer and many other following summers.



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Beginner's Department 1925

Front Row: Left to Right: W. T. Carmines; Harold Quinn; John Pauls; Leaman T. (Bud) Forrest; Charles Carmines; Raymond Insley; Harry Burge; Lorenzo Insley; L. San Forrest; Wilbur Quinn; Howard Evans; Skid Joyner. Middle Row: Tom Messick; Winnie Forrest; (Rowe); Jacquelyn Evans; Catherine Adams; Irella Lawson (Bloxom); Rose Lawson (Connor); Martha Lawson (Wood); Celia Martin (Forrest); Julia Forrest; Jessie Fay Forrest; Pauline McPherson (Leeper); Mae Cook (Forrest); Flossie Forrest (Evans); Josephine Ward (Page); Louise Hopkins (Downs). Back Row: Mrs Will Graham; Mary Milla Hunt; Mary Firth (Martin); Fannie Ferguson (Rollins); Annie Martin (Messick); Annie Page; Roxie Watkins (Haight); Alice Amory; Hattie Cook (Hogg); Geneva Forrest (Mann).



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Young People's Class — Easter Sunday — about 1951

Seated — Left to Right: Clara Lane Powell, Merrill Dean Insley, Ann Diggs, Betty Joan Evans, Mary Kathryn Rowe, Judy Firth, Merrill Dean Holloway, Wilton (Wickie) Cox, Berlin Ferguson, Mary Ward. Center Row — Left to Right: Ann Harvey Shackelford, Patty Messick, Peggy Rollins, Ernest Evans Jr., Ramon Barr, Marshall Topping, Polly Insley, Dorothy Insley, Opal Holloway, Carroll Edd Freeman, Sue Holloway, Bethany Forrest, Nelda Lawson, Phyllis Evans, Rosemary Evans, Carroll Forrest, Teacher. Standing — Left to Right: Tom Hudgins Sr., Teacher; Coston Forrest Jr., Martin Graham, Walter Forrest, Roy Rollins, Will Lawson, Richard West, Keith Goodson, B. T. Forrest Jr., Donnie Carmines, Ed Evans, "Buster" Martin, John Hubbard, George Carmines, Olen Evans, Bobbie West, Jesse F. Dryden, Gerald Tracy, Warren Holloway, John B. Graham Jr.



Kindergarten Class — Easter Sunday — about 1951

First Row — Left to Right: Bill Forrest, Unidentified, Mike Evans, Will Rollins, Dave Rollins, Unidentified, Margaret Page, Second Row — Left to Right: Johnnie Shepard, Robin Lawson, Sonny Hanson, Betsy Rowe, Sheila Firman, Ralph Evans, Debby Holloway, Sandra Forrest, Mrs. G. S. (Lucille Hunt) Forrest. Third Row — Left to Right: Calvin Gibbs, Jr., Alvin Insley, Louise Insley, Myrna Gale Forrest, Judy Watkins, Bobby Forrest, Betsy Ellen Rowe, Sheila Firman, Janet Marie Brown, Jean Blount, Dewey Wesley Evans. Fourth Row — Left to Right: Michael Herring, Mark Forrest, four faces hidden, Mrs. Copeland (Winnie Forrest) Rowe, Elaine Grey Forrest. Fifth Row — (standing) Left to Right: Joan Firth Hopkins, Bessie Lou Moore, Mrs. S. P. (Mary Topping) Moore, Mrs. Lester (Lillie Weston) Carmines, Ann Carmines, Mrs. J. F. (Louise) Bunting Jr., Pamela Bunting, Unidentified, Unidentified, Amy McGee, Mrs. Bob (Jeanette Weston) McGee, Mrs. Clarence (Grace Thomas) Evans, Janet Holloway, Mrs. Sidney (Hilda Huff) Holloway.

Day School

In the fall of 1964, Trinity's Kindergarten became a reality. There had been several discussions prior to this date, but no real support from the church family.

When the Rev. Mr. M. Ott Davis came to Trinity in 1964, to assist the ailing minister, Dr. George Amos, the Kindergarten found a firm advocate.

Mrs. John (Mary Jack) Henley was the first Chairman of the Kindergarten Board. The first teachers were Mrs. Howard G. (Betty Cox) Forrest and Mrs. Charles (Jeannine Ward) Sibbers. Mrs. Charles (Pauline McPherson) Leeper has been the treasurer for many years. Mrs. Forrest is still director and teacher, having returned to Trinity after a brief stint at the Poquoson Elementary School. Mrs. Sibbers has "graduated" to the position of teacher at Poquoson High School.

Besides Mr. Davis, the Kindergarten has received enthusiastic support from past ministers W. Dabney Walters and Arthur Green.

The five-year-old group is no longer at Trinity, having been inculcated in the public school system since the state program began. Three- and four-year olds are presently served in the Educational building on Church Road, meeting several days a week each.

Members of Trinity have traditionally been given an opportunity to register first; however, the doors are open to all races, ethnic groups and denominations. The first class had thirty, five-year-olds and fifteen, four-year-olds for a total of forty-five students. Currently, without the five-year-olds, there are sixty-eight pupils enrolled.

The program stresses development of the whole child — socially — emotionally — physically and intellectually. Outstanding leadership and teaching have made this an excellent program.



Adult Choir - Easter 1951

Dr. W. D. Williams in Pulpit

Front Row: Left to Right: Mrs. Wiley (Louise Hopkins) Downs; Miss Caroline Freeman; Mrs. H. P. (Sara Lawson) Watkins; Mrs. W. Herbert (Minnie Forrest) Amory; Mrs. Robert (Bernie) Forrest; Mrs. Henry S. (Evelyn Amory) Clark; Mrs. Austin (Agnes Holloway) Carmines; Mrs. Ben (Lucille Quinn) Quinn Sr.; Mrs. Winnie (Christine Carmines) Forrest; Mrs. Floyd (Maggie) Rollins. Second Row: Miss Mary E. Carmines; Mrs. H. Milton (Nell) Forrest Sr.; Mrs. W. T. (Mollie Forrest) Freeman; Mrs. J. Elvin (Edith Walters) Freeman Sr.; Miss Lena J. Rollins; Mrs. Carroll T. (Jessie Forrest; Mrs. Lemuel D. (Lillie) Forrest; Mrs. Alton M. (Betty Forrest) White; Mrs. M. B. (Maggie Quinn) Rollins; Mrs. H. S. (Charlene Amory) Ward. Back Row: W. Herbert Amory; Wallie G. White; Carroll T. Forrest; Benjamin Quinn Jr.; Robert Hawkins Sr.; Mrs. W. W. (Harriet Page) Forrest; Daniel Freeman; J. Elvin Freeman Sr.; William James Insley; Jennings Forrest.

Trinity's Music

Prior to 1908, or 1909, Trinity United Methodist Church had no organized choirs. In view of the many groups we now have, and the wealth of both trained and untrained talent in the congregations through the years, this is a remarkable fact.

In no way, do we imply that there was no music . . . Trinity has always been a singing church and people enjoyed harmonizing so much during congregational singing that Mr. Alfred Forrest organized the first choir about 1908. Mr. Forrest later moved to Hampton and taught until his retirement . . . a Hampton school is named for him. Miss Iola Topping (later Mrs. Johnie Lawson) was the first organist. (Yes, we had an organ at that time.)

Mrs. Lawson remembers that the following names were included in the group: Ladies: Mrs. Wallie (Emily Firth) Smith, Mrs. Sledd (Mamie S. Forrest) Quinn, Mrs. Lemuel (Lillie) Forrest Jr., Mrs. Victoria Freeman Lawson, Mrs. W. M. (Priscilla C.) Rollins, Mrs. Joe (Della J.) Freeman, Mrs. Bernice Freeman Rollins, Miss Octavia Weston, Mrs. J. T. (Lizzie Watkins) Forrest, Mrs. Marion (Lorraine Amory) Quinn, Mrs. W. H. (Minnie Forrest) Amory, Mrs. Bill (Mollie Forrest) Freeman and Mrs. Elijah (Maggie Gibbs) Forrest. Men: Lemuel M. D. Forrest Sr., Ira B. Forrest, R. L. (Bob Lee) Forrest, Winnie Forrest, John Thomas (Tom Epps) Forrest, Joseph M. Freeman, George W. Amory Sr., John Pauls Sr., Bob Manning Holloway, Robert (Bob Ames) Harvey, William James Insley, William M. Freeman and W. Herbert Amory.

There must have been a great deal of socializing during the harmonizing since many of the group were not married then and as you can see from the list, many of them married each other!

Until fairly recent years, Trinity choirs did not have Directors. They had "Leaders". Their "Leaders" did not stand up in front and direct. They sat with their section in the choir and literally led the entire group. Leaders through the years, and Directors who followed, have included the following: Alfred Forrest, Lemuel M. D. Forrest Sr., Mrs. Lemuel (Lillie) Forrest Jr., Ira B. Forrest, Carroll Thomas Forrest, Mrs. William (Harriett) Forrest, Mrs. R. G. (Dorabelle Forrest) Cox, Joseph M. Freeman, Dan Freeman, Mrs. Lauren (Frances) Ferguson.

The Rev. C. A. Turner's notebook gave us the following list of choir members during the early 1940's: Lillie Forrest, Christine Forrest, Sara Forrest, Catherine Forrest, Bernie Forrest, Nell Forrest, Minnie Amory, Mary Rollins, Maggie Forrest, Betty White, James Insley, Herbert Amory, Agnes Carmines, Evelyn Clark, Lucille Quinn, Maggie Rollins, Silla Rollins, Robena Watkins, Mollie Freeman, Emily Evans, Lena Rollins, Tom Hudgins, Obie Page, Jessie Fay Forrest, Garland Forrest, Winnie Forrest, Osborne Forrest Jr., Tom Eppes Forrest, Bob Forrest, Osborne Evans, W. T. Freeman, Will Joyner, Ned Freeman, Bob M. Holloway and Bob Hawkins.

The same notebook listed the names of the "Junior Choir". These individuals are listed as their names are shown on his roster. Readers will note that many of these "juniors" are now grandparents! Mary Carmines, Beulah Carmines, Margaret Ruth Evans, Lottie Evans, Mary Jack Evans, Caroline Freeman, Victoria Freeman, Nancy Huggette, Sara V. Lawson, Dolly Messick, Goldie Powell, Ned Freeman, Melvin Lee Watkins, Wilbur Quinn, Mary Lou Quinn, Wallie G. White, Dan Freeman, Ray Rollins, Milford Rollins, C. A. Turner III, Mary Avis Rollins, Edna Carmines,

Lois Spence, Ethel Mae Spence, Gracie M. Forrest, Ann Forrest, Lucille Bradshaw, Anna Lou Johnson, Helen Ward, Leader; and Roxie Watkins, accomp.

In the mid thirties, a musically-inclined group of young people began to meet weekly in private homes to enjoy fellowship and music. Previously unsuspected talents surfaced, and the group developed into a well-blended chorus under the direction of Carroll T. Forrest, its first leader. Almost immediately, there were invitations to appear before various church groups and the congregation.

Roxie Watkins (later Mrs. Charles Haight) became accompanist and thus started her long service to Trinity as Pianist and Organist. It was said of her by many soloists that "she breathed with you" and "if you made a mistake, she somehow blended and covered up for you". Roxie is still with us every Sunday, but is now unable to perform musically because of ill health.

When Carroll Forrest enrolled at Emory University in 1940, Mrs. Fayette (Helen Ward) Forrest became director and served for many years.

Early programs on file in the church archives mention talented people who were members of this youth choir. In the Homecoming Program, dated July 10th, 1938, Victoria Freeman and David Hopkins sang a duet. A Christmas Program of the fifties listed solos by Miss Esther Marie White and Miss Ella Mae Holloway. E. W. Page Jr. sang a solo with a "quartet and the choir". Miss Anna Sue Forrest and Mrs. Alton (Betty) White were Accompanists. Mrs. Herman (Irene) Forrest was reader and Carroll T. Forrest Directed.

A Daily Press item in the early forties listed the following people in the "Trinity Music Club" who gave a cantata at Christmas: Helen Ward, Director, Nancy Huggette, Margaret Evans, Mary Jack Evans, C. A. Turner III, Anna Lou Johnson, Goldie Powell, Gracie Mae Evans, Ben Forrest, Anne Forrest, Ray Rollins, Dan Freeman, Mary Avis Rollins, Lottie Evans, Ben Quinn Jr., Milford Rollins and Margaret Hunt.

Christmas Vespers on December 23, 1962 listed the following on the program: Dr. E. N. Hassell gave opening and closing prayers. Solos: Meryle Forrest, Junie Page, Esther Proctor, Ben Wilson Jr., Wallie White, Elwood Forrest, John Henley, Jessie Fay Forrest.

Leaders have always surfaced whenever the youth needed them, with varying degrees of success, including Geanette MacKay, Tom Daniels, Sally Hardy, Louann McIntosh, Jody Henley, the current director, Mrs. W. W. (Harriett Page) Forrest, and the first "Leader" Carroll T. Forrest.

During recent years, the group has prepared concerts not only for Trinity's enjoyment but they have taken them on tour several times to Virginia cities Salem, Richmond, Danville and Monroe. Two specific titles greatly enjoyed were "Come Together" and "Tell It Like It Is". As is the custom among the youth of today, the name of the youth choral group has changed several times from "Trinity Music Club" to "Daybreak", but whatever the current title, they are still our talented youngsters and their performances are enjoyed.

During the early years, Trinity had an organ in the sanctuary. When it was retired because of old age, the organ was replaced by a piano. This instrument continued as the congregational singing accompaniment until 1950, when the current Reuter Organ was installed. This acquisition came about in an interesting fashion.

The old "Music Club", having visited various other local churches in Hampton, Norfolk, etc. decided that Trinity needed an organ for truly "churchy" sounds. This was pre-World War II, Great Depression Days, and money was scarce.

The solution, long and slow though it seemed to the impatient youth, was to start accumulating funds toward the purchase of their dream far in the future. Programs given several times a year, particularly on Mother's Day, had the offerings received go into a savings account at the local bank. In addition to this, banks were placed in each Church School classroom and were passed around each week. These banks were labeled "Organ Fund" and when full, the money was placed in the bank account and another bank given to the class to start again.

When the sanctuary renovation was projected in 1948, it seemed an ideal time to arrange space for the placing of the proposed organ. The chief difficulty was that the bank account only had about \$10,000.00 which was barely half enough. The church fathers, in an admirable move, advised that they would make up the balance of the amount needed and the installation of the organ became a reality in 1950.

During the early years also, Trinity's Adult Choir served without vestments and, of course, the youth was expected to do likewise. Now anyone who has had any dealings with youth knows that they can be expected to do the unexpected. This was the case here. A Committee was formed to investigate ways and means. Action was then taken. Bolts of white muslin were purchased . . . Pattern books were searched at Peninsula department stores . . . A vestment pattern selected . . . Mothers were drafted to do the sewing . . . Then a "cutting session" was held at the home of Caroline, Dan & Victoria Freeman. Most of the parts of the pattern were self-explanatory to the group — "back", "front", "sleeves" — caused no problem. The part labeled "gusset", however, defied all attempts of the various members of the group trying to "fit it in". When the choristers had given up in frustration, Mr. Joe Freeman just stepped in and very quietly and efficiently pinned the uncooperative pieces in their proper places under both arms, and the garment for the first time looked like something your mother would permit you to wear in the church choir! We had long known of Mr. Freeman's musical ability, but none of us realized what a wide variety of talents the man had until that night.

Children and youth choirs have been among Trinity's most appreciated activities since their inception.

Earliest memories recall that children's singing groups were organized for specific occasions. Since about 1955, however, the Sunshine Chorus and the Junior Choir have delighted Trinity audiences regularly under the direction of Mrs. W. W. (Harriett Page) Forrest.

Trinity's little people have appeared both at their church and other tidewater churches as soon as they were able to negotiate the pulpit steps.

When the "singing Christmas Tree" was started in 1967, they were assisted to its thirty-foot height by surer-footed volunteers among the adults, while anxious parents watched the wiggling youngsters high above their heads. The tree itself was not alive, since it was built from branches and iron pipe, etc. No one who watched the performances, however, would ever agree that the tree was not "lively".



This tree of Joy appeared for many Christmas seasons on the Trinity scene. It was thirty (30) feet tall and twenty-two feet (22) in diameter. The men of the church constructed it in 1967 of twenty-two (22) sheets of plywood, a truck load of pine and an uncounted number of feet of pipe. Trinity's dearest treasure, her children, shone more brightly than the electric bulbs as they decorated the tree and sang Christmas Carols to the crowds below. In this picture, long-time youth chorus director, Harriett Page Forrest, appears in the front row with Carroll Edd Freeman Emerson, accompanist.

Early robes supplied by Guild members have grown old and have had to be replaced, but the spirit of the youngsters and their talents only seem to increase. Without the enthusiastic support of their parents, these groups would soon cease to exist. With parents like Mr. & Mrs. Larry (Sherry Parks) Perok, however, there seems to be no danger of parental support dying out. Their daughter, Sherri Kaye Perok recently received an award for four years of perfect attendance to the singing group. Truly remarkable, regardless of age!



Sunshine Chorus: 1981

Front Row - Left to Right: Tiffany Ruehl, Nickie Diggs, Jason Wechsler, Craig Murray, Tommie Jordan, Johnie Forrest, Jessica Montgomery, Lynne Watkins, Amanda Roma. Second Row - Shannon Walker, Sherry Perok, Melissa Roma, Kim Diggs, Shanna Stone, Amy Insley, Nicole Insley. Third Row: Robin Jordan, Christine Hargraves, Julie Stratton, Kieth Mungo, Terry Verstynen, Sandra Holloway. Mrs. Charles (Mary H.) Conrad - Accompanist, Mrs. W. W. (Harriet P.) Forrest - Director.



The New Testament 1974

Front Row; Left to Right: Pamela Carmines; Jackie Henley; Cary Hopkins; Cindy MacKay; Tom Daniels (Director); Sandra Pride; Sharon Austin; Kerry Gough; Jodi Wilson; Vernon Krueger. Back Row: Jerry Firth; Sherry Wolfe; Wayne Austin; Jody Henley; Ann Insley; Frank Birdwell; Sid Holloway Jr.; Beth Bradshaw; Kathy Proctor; Kathy Krueger; Pam Updike; Susan Downs.

Trinity Men's Chorus — Now The George Amos Men's Chorus

In the mid 1950's, the Trinity Men's Bible Class received new hymn books. There were many unfamiliar songs and after struggling a Sunday or two to learn them, Rob Holloway and Chester Page suggested that the men form a chorus to meet during the week and learn the songs so that they could lead the class on Sunday morning.

Under the willing leadership of its selected director, J. Elvin (Ned) Freeman, the men began to enjoy their weekly gatherings and the membership grew. As word of the talented group spread, they became much in demand not only for church activities but for community affairs. Mrs Henry S. (Evelyn Amory) Clark was the accompanist. She was a natural selection since she also was pianist for the Men's Class.

Members of this first group included: Robert S. Holloway, Chester Page, Obie Page, E. W. (Junie) Page, Eldridge Robinson, Garland Forrest, J. Elwood Forrest, Beamon T. Forrest Sr., Lloyd Forrest, John Lemuel Forrest, H. M. (Bubber) Forrest Jr., W. W. (Billy) Forrest, Mr. McKeown, W. James Insley, John B. Graham, J. W. Diggs, Wallie G. White, Robert McGee, Carroll Freeman, Herbert Freeman.

Mr. Freeman remained as director of the group approximately seven years . . . Upon his resignation, Bob McGee led the group for a short time before disinterest caused the chorus to disband.

When Dr. George Amos arrived on the Trinity scene, since he was very partial to "men's singing", the chorus was reorganized with Mrs. William W. (Harriett Page) Forrest as director. Under her leadership, the success of the chorus has been a pleasure to follow.

Accompanists for the group have included Mrs. Sherwood (Carroll Edd Freeman) Emerson, Mrs. William W. (Kay Quinn) Martin, and Mrs. J. (Julie Forrest) Haczewski.

Appearances have included most Tidewater cities before church groups, civic organizations, Methodist District and conference appearances, and radio performances.

George W. Amos Men's Chorus — Membership 1981—1982

Director — Mrs. W. W. (Harriet Page) Forrest

Accompanist — Mrs. W. W. (Kay Quinn) Martin

Members: Charles Eugene Barr, Ramon Barr, Scott Bloxom, Aster Couch, Richard Diggs Jr., J. W. Diggs, William W. Forrest, Robert Lee Forrest, John L. Forrest, William Austin Forrest, Elwood Forrest, Keith Goodson, John Henley, A. V. "Binks" Holloway, Everette Jordan, Robin Lawson, Larry Moore, W. M. "Potsie" Martin, E. W. Page Jr., Arnold Page, John William Pauls, Obie Page, Tim Smith, Glen Wilson, C. E. Ward, Jack White, Charles Yokum.

Senior Choir Members Who Participated in Easter Music — April 19, 1981

Director — Mrs. R. Gordon (Dorabelle Forrest) Cox

Pianist — Mrs. W. W. (Harriet Page) Forrest

Organist — Mrs. Tim (Susan) Smith

Reader — Mr. Carroll T. Forrest

Women: Mrs. Harvey (Sylvia Holloway) Brown, Mrs. C. E. (Edna Insley) Barr, Mrs. John (Janet) Carmines, Mrs. Charles (Mary Hoffman) Conrad, Mrs. H. W. (Louise Hopkins) Downs, Mrs. Harold (Vernell Page) Edwards, Mrs. Bert (Florence Rideout) Forrest, Mrs. W. M. (Kay Quinn) Martin, Mrs. E. W. (Goldie Powell) Page, Mrs. W. H. (Esther White) Proctor, Miss Lena Rollins, Mrs. Jon (Meryle Forrest) Roma, Mrs. James F. (Betty Forrest) Walker, Mrs. Percy (Kathy) Ward Jr., Mrs. Preston (Sara Lawson) Watkins, Men: Elwood Forrest, Lloyd Forrest, W. M. (Potsie) Martin, John W. Paul, E. W. Page Jr., Arnold Page, Tim Smith, Durwood Watkins, Wallie G. White.



Trinity Men's Bible Class Chorus - Ca 1957

J. Elvin Freeman - Conducting

Mrs. W. W. (Harriett Page) Forrest - Accompanist

Seated Left - Grady Montgomery

Seated Right - Unidentified

Front Row: Left to Right: Will Joyner; Lloyd Forrest; John Lemuel Forrest; Robert McGee; Carroll Freeman; E. W. (Junie) Page; Melvin L. Watkins; Raymond Holloway Jr.; Herbert Freeman. Middle Row: H. M. (Bubber) Forrest Jr.; Willie G. White; J. Elwood Forrest; Eldridge Robinson; Elton (Boots) Bunting; J. W. Diggs; W. W. Forrest; Ben Wilson Jr.; John B. Graham; Rob Holloway. Back Row: Obie Page; W. James Insley; J. Lem Firth Sr.; Rob Hawkins; Benton Rollins; Philip Schwartz.

Oak, Virginia, October 1st, 1930

\$5,000.00

Two (2) years after date we promise to pay to the order of
Citizens Bank of Poquoson, negotiable and payable
at CITIZENS BANK OF POQUOSON, Oak, Virginia

Five Thousand and No/100 - - - - - DOLLARS

For value received, with interest at 6% per annum, including ten per cent. fee if collected by attorney. We, the undersigned makers, endorser or endorsers, hereby waive the benefit of our homestead exemption as to this debt, and also waive protest, presentation and notices of dishonor.

W. M. Rollins J. F. Amory A. Topping
R. A. Harvey W. R. Holloway R. L. Forrest Sr.

Trustees of Trinity M. E. Church, South, York Charge, Virginia Conference

(With interest at 6% per annum)

Deed of Trust

Cancelled and released this
10 day of Sept 1944
Floyd Holloway, Clerk.
Trinity Church, York County, Va.

In 1930 when a loan was made to a church each Trustee had to sign the front of the document and each Steward signed the back. This is being included because of those signatures. W. M. (Billy) Rollins; John Franklin Amory; Healy Topping; R. A. (Bob) Harvey; W. R. (Bob Manning) Holloway; R. L. (Bob Lee) Forrest; I. H. Lawson Sr.

W. M. Rollins	H. S. Insley
J. F. Amory	B. J. Lawrence
H. Topping	E. F. Firth
R. A. Harvey	J. F. Lawrence
W. R. Holloway	G. W. Bradshaw
R. L. Fornash	J. L. Bradshaw
J. H. Lawrence	J. G. Insley
J. J. Martin	Richard Diggs
M. B. Rollins	J. E. Firth
J. E. Firth	A. D. Page
J. J. Rollins	J. T. Bunting
A. D. Page	L. L. Insley Jr.
J. M. Freeman	J. M. Insley Jr.
J. P. Amory	J. H. Holloway
R. L. Fornash	J. S. Page
J. B. Harvey	R. L. Forrest
J. B.	

W. M. (Billy) Rollins; John Frank Amory; Healy Topping; R. A. (Bob) Harvey; W. R. (Bob Manning) Holloway; R. L. (Bob Lee) Forrest; I. H. Lawson; J. I. (Ike) Martin; M. B. (Buren) Rollins; J. E. Firth; T. J. (Jeff) Rollins; A. J. (Azarus) Page; J. M. Freeman. John R. Lawson Jr.; C. L. Lawson; J. Clifton Carmines; W. T. Freeman; H. D. Forrest; C. T. (Pete) Lawson; E. F. Firth; George F. Lawson; George W. Evans; J. Lemuel Bradshaw; J. G. Insley; Richard Diggs; J. L. Firth; A. D. (Arthur) Page; Joseph F. Bunting; Littleton Insley Jr.; W. J. Insley Jr.; Steven D. Holloway; T. S. Page; R. L. (Bob Spider) Forrest; Joseph J. Burge; T. C. (Shag) Holloway; G. J. Patesel; J. Willis Insley; W. T. Huggett Jr.; R. A. (Bob Early) Holloway; Henry M. White.

ODD, VIRGINIA, March 2nd 1925 No.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF POQUOSON 68-409

PAY TO THE First Nat'l Bank of Poquoson
ORDEP. OF First National Bank of Poquoson \$100.00
One hundred and three dollars and ninty ⁹⁸ DOLLARS
Payment on note due Mar
and out unearned note odd
to date /

Maylith Co. Wash. D.C.

J. Thos Forrest

ODD, VIRGINIA, April 7 1925 No.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF POQUOSON 68-409 OF Poquoson

PAY TO THE W. L. FORREST
ORDER OF W. L. FORREST APR 7 1925 \$ 80.00
Eighty ⁰⁰ DOLLARS
FOR Salaries Factor for Trinity J. Thos Forrest
ODD, VIRGINIA

Buried in the Churchyard:

Bardshaw, 2 children of W. J. and M. A. Bradshaw - (no dates)

Ann Maria (Hudgins) b. 9 Jun 1841 d. 12 Nov 1890
Edward b. 10 Jan 1841 d. 11 Nov 1906
Harry V. b. 25 Dec 1884 d. 7 Aug 1923
Margaret M. b. 2 Aug 1900 d. 2 Mar 1902
William E. b. 24 Aug 1868 d. 27 Sep 1933

B. A. B. - Marker next to Margaret M. Bradshaw

Carmines, Sara V. b. 1 Sep 1867 d. 27 Dec 1898

Evans, Elverta Belle (Bradshaw) - Wife of W. F. Evans b. 21 Feb 1880 d. 2 Mar 1908
Alpheus - Son of J. F. & M. A. Evans - 20 Sep 1892
4 children - no names or dates
Catherine J. - Wife of W. E. Evans b. 19 Nov 1872 d. 13 Aug 1894
Josiah b. 13 Feb 1814 d. 5 Jun 1890
Josiah Franklin b. 6 Jul 1846 d. 7 Mar 1932
Nancy b. 30 Mar 1814 d. 13 Apr 1891
Robert J. b. 9 Nov 1885 d. 5 Aug 1929
Virginia Ann b. 9 Sep 1863 d. 2 Dec 1894
William Elijah b. 6 Mar 1864 d. 4 Mar 1900
Martha Martin - Wife of J. F. Evans d. 20 Sep 1920 - age 69 yrs.

Firth, Charlotte - Wife of G. W. Firth b. 6 Mar 1840 d. 26 May 1914

Forrest, Mary E. (Deal) - Wife of Thomas E. Forrest b. 11 May 1847 d. 3 Mar 1924
Missouri J. b. 14 Feb 1889
Sarah F. b. 14 Mar 1876 d. 28 Sep 1889
Sarah Wesley b. 11 Dec 1864 d. 5 Jun 1892
Thomas H. b. 6 Jan 1832 d. 31 Jan 1913
William T. b. 26 Apr 1873 d. 11 Oct 1889

J. F. - just initials on footstone.

Harvey, Cornelia J. b. 12 Oct 1882 d. 1901 - age 19

Holloway, John E. b. 20 Jul 1848 d. 10 Aug 1895
W. H. b. 15 Jun 1891 d. 19 Feb 1897
Agnes (see Watkins)

Hopkins, George E. b. 6 Mar 1859 d. 27 Nov 1910

Huggett, H. C. b. Nov 1857 d. 19 Mar 1894
(39 yrs. 4 mos.)

Insley, George T. - Son of J. N. Insley - (no dates)

James N. b. 6 Dec 1842 d. 3 Feb 1915
Mary Frances b. 18 Dec 1850 d. 24 Feb 1911
Lawson, I. H. b. 10 Jan 1878 d. 13 Sep 1895
Irella b. 11 Mar 1852 d. 5 Jul 1908
Isaac H. b. 8 May 1849 d. 1 Jun 1933
Jefferson R. b. 30 Sep 1890 d. 6 Jan 1893
J. W. b. 1 Apr 1882 d. 29 Jul 1906
Sadie E. - Wife of Robt. S. Lawson b. 5 Oct 1882 d. 23 Dec 1905

Messick, several children's graves

Page, 2 children's graves
Harry Goodwin b. 1888 d. 1888
Martha Ella b. 10 Jun 1857 d. 15 Aug 1918
Obediah b. 15 Apr 1849 d. 10 Oct 1914
Sallie Emma b. 1886 d. 1887

Quinne, Derusha J. b. 3 Sep 1861 d. 19 Sep 1889
Robert F. - Son of Derusha & W. F.
Quinne d. 4 Sep 1899 - age 3 mo.

Rollins, 3 children's graves

Topping, Rodella B. - Wife of W. C. Topping b. 5 Mar 1887 d. 7 Jul 1906
Infant child of Rodella B. & W. C. Topping - died same day as Mother

Watkins, Agnes Holloway - Wife of C. T. Watkins b. 9 Jun 1874 d. 20 Jul 1895
Henry L. - Son of J. T. & M. W. Watkins d. 2 Sep 1890
Wainwright, Evans b. 29 Nov 1808 d. 27 Nov 1891
Sara N. Holloway - Wife of W. E. Wainwright b. 25 Jan 1859 d. 3 Jan 1901

Persons Buried Under the Church Buildings:

Bradley, Amos	b. 7 Jun 1882	d. 15 Sep 1915
Cora	b. 2 Jun 1853	d. 15 Jul 1892
Thomas Marion	b. 6 Jul 1852	d. 28 Jul 1918
Bradshaw, Harry	b. 25 Dec 1884	d. 7 Aug 1923
William Thomas	b. 10 Oct 1876	d. 15 Nov 1926
Bunting, Austin Callis - Son of Ed & Bertha Bunting	b. 27 Jul 1910 9/21/1919	d. 3 Nov 1910
George)		
Benson) Children of J. F. &	b. 21 Oct 1901	d. 30 Jun 1902
Emily June) Georgie Bunting	b. 11 Jun 1921	d. 27 Jun 1921
Fred)	b. 20 Dec 1899	d. Jul 1901
Evans, Annie	b. 1890	d. 1891
Cecil	b. 1892	d. 1893
Effie	b. 1886	d. 1887
Virginia Ann	b. 1886	d. 1894
Forrest, Ann Carmines (nee Holloway)	b. 9 May 1852	d. 5 Sep 1898
Emma - Daughter of Ann and Robert J. Forrest	b. 17 May 1887	d. 17 May 1892
Vergie - Daughter of Bob Lee and Melissa Forrest	b. 20 July 1890	d. 20 Oct. 1892
Haight, Benjamin Franklin	b. 4 May 1823	d. 5 Feb 1903
Lawson, Winnie - Granddaughter of Ann Carmines Forrest	b. 15 Jan 1892	d. 29 Nov 1912
Page, William Ray	b. 10 Jun 1898	d. 5 Jul 1907
Watkins, Lillie Florence - Daughter of R. Mead and Sarah S. (Toss) Watkins	b. 8 Aug 1887	d. 17 Oct 1887

When Trinity men went off to war in the early forties at the request of Uncle Sam, those they left behind rolled bandages, worked in war plants, became Air Plane Spotters Yep, we did. Our minister, Ambrose Turner, was the Chief Air Raid Warden. His office at the church was the official civil defense headquarters, and Trinity people were called on for twenty-four hours duty. Rollins Funeral Home at 1304 Poquoson Avenue was our "post".

Thermos bottles, knitting, snacks and binoculars were toted faithfully along as we went to our duty post several times a week during the blackouts. Oh yes, we were blacked-out in these parts, — heavy drapes, hooded headlights, etc. We heard plenty of planes, but they were our Langley neighbors doing their duty also.

Not one enemy plane was spotted, but that probably was because we were guarded by anti-aircraft batteries on North Lawson Road, Messick Road and Poquoson Avenue. Honest . . . we have pictures to prove it. These units were astounded on Christmas Day 1941, when their camps were "invaded" by a group of Trinity youth including Florence and "Peaches" Hopkins, and Carroll, Jessie and Mae Forrest . . . "armed" with enough "good vittles" from Trinity's cooks to last the A Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Coast Artillery group, until New Year's Day.

While home folk assisted in whatever capacity permitted, whether seafood production, civil service or building ships, Trinity's men answered the call and served throughout the world in every branch of service.

A special plaque in the hall just outside the north sanctuary door commenorates those who did not return home from various wars and police actions:

Robert R. Holloway — U. S. Army Born March 20, 1897 Killed in Action — Blanc Mont, France October 7, 1918	Sgt. Gilbert Wayne Page — U. S. Army Born December 3, 1948 Killed in Action South Viet Nam — May 17, 1969
Granville L. Adams — U. S. Air Force Born March 16, 1923 Lost Over the China Sea August 20, 1944	Joseph E. Wood — U. S. Army Born October 29, 1930 Killed in Action — Korea September 4, 1950
Ernest T. Holloway — U. S. Navy Born February 2, 1925 Killed in Action — San Jacinto Straits — October 27, 1944	Jack S. Holloway — U. S. Marines Born September 10, 1930 Killed in Action — Korea December 13, 1952
John Ray Forrest — U. S. Marines Born July 31, 1920 Killed in Action — Iwo Jima February 19, 1945	David D. Owens — U. S. Marines Born January 17, 1936 Killed in Action — South Viet Nam October 4, 1967
Sgt. Paul A. Meyer — U. S. Air Force Born March 10, 1945 Lost Over the Atlantic May 23, 1969	Richard T. Huggett — U. S. Army Born September 21, 1947 Killed in Action — South Viet Nam June 13, 1968

Many Trinity members who survived these conflicts came home with serious wounds in body and spirit.

Trinity's Library is one of its latest acquisitions and a very valuable one. In August 1971, a Committee composed of Mary Carmines, Chairman, with members Betty (Forrest) White, Irene (Watkins) Forrest, Annette (Lawson) Forest, Julie (Everhart) Jayne and Jody Henley, began planning and accumulating what has become an excellent collection of well-rounded literature.

A survey of the shelves will show resource material for the church school, history, fiction, science and biography.

From the beginning, the organization has been staffed by volunteers. Mary Carmines served as librarian from the opening on August 15, 1973 until 1979 when Mary Jane Graham was appointed her successor.

Since its beginning, the library has acquired over one thousand volumes. It is located on the ground floor next to the nursery and is open on Sunday mornings and specified days during the week. At present, two volunteers make up the staff and they will assist any church group or individual which needs time in the facility.

Shelves were given by Mary Carmines and the table and four chairs were given by the Women's Society.

The needlepoint picture of the Twenty-third Psalm was made and contributed by Mrs. F. M. (Ola Huggett) Lawson.

The painting of the cross, candelabra and Bible was given by Mr. and Mrs. E. Burgess (Gladys Holloway) Lawson.

Too many books and other items have been donated as memorials to list separately here.

Nor'easters blowing along the Atlantic Coast are nothing new to the Trinity area. Notes in the diary of a Methodist minister names James, indicates storms with extremely high tides on April 27, 1831; May 31, 1836; March 2, 1846; August 24, 1850; and a "dreadful gust" on September 11 and 12, 1857.

Today they are called "hurricanes" and are given names like "Alice" and "Dennis" and we join the meteorologists in tracing their paths north on our maps.

There was no such service on August 23, 1933. One of those rascals sneaked in on us almost without warning. The "old heads" among us commented gravely that the tides weren't "behaving right", and the experienced watermen feeling "something in the air", went down to the landings and checked their lines. Before that Wednesday was over, and those winds and tides ceased misbehaving, the Poquoson area, its York County and Hampton neighbors bordering the Back and Poquoson Rivers, found themselves under water. Amory's wharf had been swept away, carrying with it dozens of boats which had been secured on the west side of the dock. Many of these vessels were discovered high and dry on Langley Field where the water on Andrews Blvd. was chest deep. These boats provided the livelihood of many people and their loss, compounded by the damage to many homes and the loss of much livestock, sorely tried the faith of Trinity's members.

Prayers of thanksgiving arose in abundance when investigation showed no loss of human life.

We laughed when the "Galilean Service" was less than perfect. It happened like this... The youth of the church took themselves and several counselors to Breakwater Bar for a picnic and vesper service one Sunday afternoon in the late 1940's or early 1950's. When this group headed out of Back River, it took a Big boat and a patient skipper. We were always fortunate in having people like Mr. Will Joyner, Mr. Tom Messick and Mr. Clarence Evans with boats large enough to accommodate the group and with owners willing to risk them. On this particular date, concensus states that it was Mr. Evans' boat which served the group.

After an afternoon of roaming the marsh on Plum Tree, swimming and eating raw clams, the group gathered for a picnic supper. As is customary with Trinity mothers, we had enough food to feed at least five thousand. Following supper, Carroll and Jessie Forrest, counselors, coaxed the young people to the edge of the water on the beautiful white sand facing a small cove.

In the meantime, a small boat had been acquired and it approached the beach from the water. The intention was to hold a vesper service with the program being presented by those people in the boat, and the congregation remaining on shore. The group in the boat was led by Milford Rollins, probably the most outstanding youth counselor Trinity ever had prior to his entry into the Methodist Ministry. With him as the boat rounded the point and headed toward the beach, were Mary Jack Evans (Henley), Dolly Messick (Woolard), Lelia Carmines (Romo) and Dan Freeman. An excellent presentation had been planned, and Milford held the Bible under his arm as he and Dan poled the vessel shoreward. The girls sat on small cross-seats.

Immediately upon rounding the point, it became obvious to the congregation that the freeboard of the craft decreased steadily. Water was rising on the deck around the ankles of the girls. The group singing organized by Carroll on the beach began to die out rapidly as they watched the boat sink lower and lower in the water. The girls in the boat stood... Dan kept poling toward shore... and Milford saved the Bible by raising it over his head.

Amid the chorus of laughter from the congregation, Milford, Dan and the Girls splashed ashore. There was no worship service that evening... all agreed that the atmosphere was far from conducive.

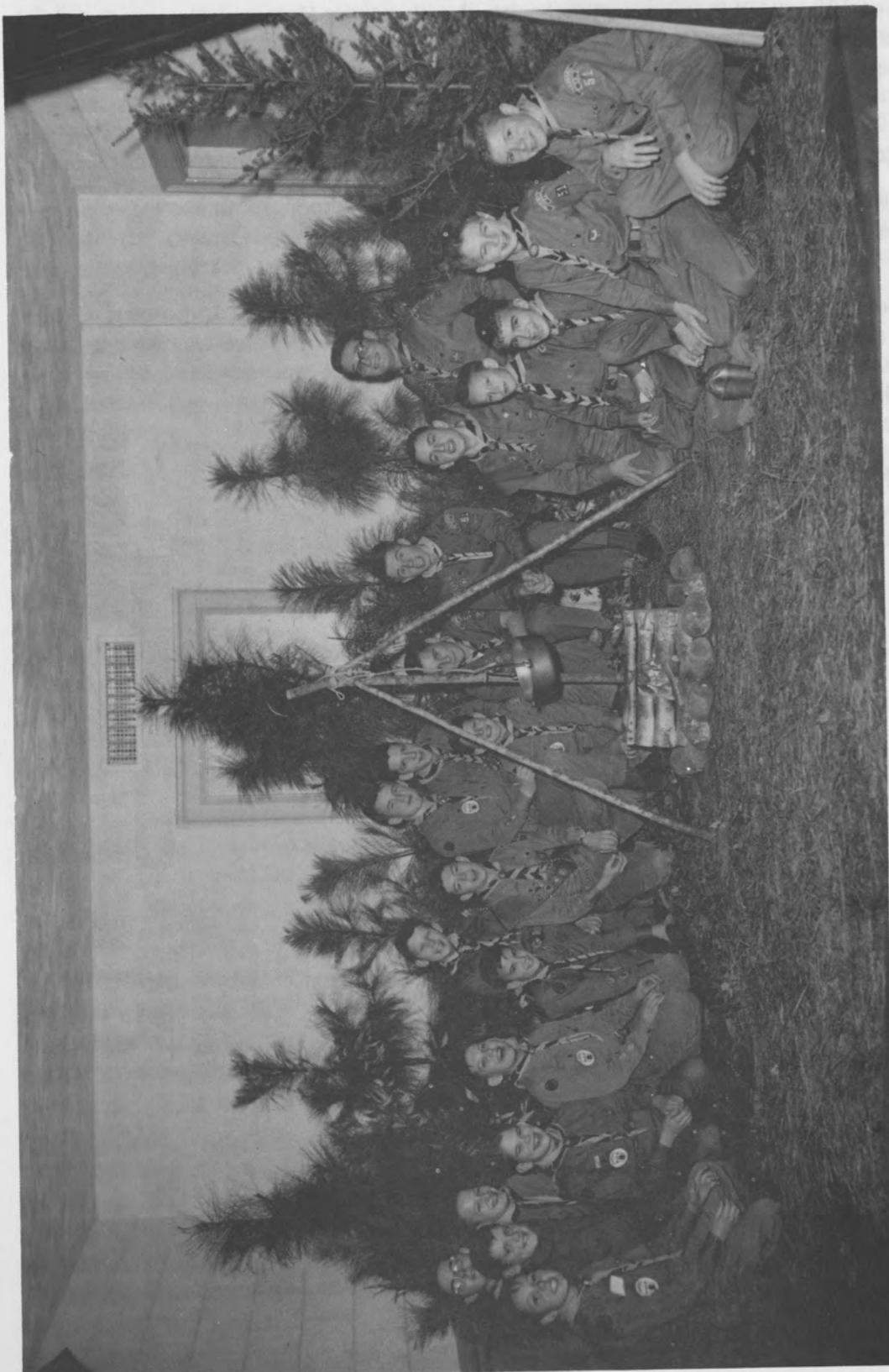
This beach area bordered on the Plum Tree Bombing Range, where the north bank of Back River borders Chesapeake Bay... but that is another story... to be told another time.

We gave thanks for those who were saved and we wept with those who lost loved ones when the Chesapeake and Ohio train collided with the Poquoson-Hampton bus on the third of November 1924. The minister at Trinity was assisted in visiting those in the hospital by the Rev. Charles McAllister, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church; and the Rev. Charles Friend, pastor of Hampton Presbyterian Church, both in Hampton. Old Dixie Hospital was a long way to travel, and there were many grieving families at home. Individuals in the Town of Hampton gave support and sympathy whenever and wherever they could.

Hampton officials requested that all town stores close from noon to one o'clock on the day of the funerals out of respect for their bereaved customers and friends. In Messick, work came to a standstill as multiple funerals were attended by almost everyone.

Trinity residents killed were William H. Forrest and his son, Essie J. Forrest; Gilbert Insley and his son Floyd; Brothers Albert Nicholson Firman and Waverly Firman; David James Hopkins, whose terminally ill father in the same hospital was not told of his son's death. Joseph M. Huggett died as a result of injuries in the accident.

All of these men, except Albert N. Firman are buried in Western Cemetery. He lies in Eastern Cemetery.



Troop 51 holds COURT OF HONOR to bestow its first EAGLE AWARD . . .

Left to Right: Eddie, Sammie, Henderson, Matthew, David, Essie, Rod, Vic, Mike E., Ray, Mark, Andy, Mike W., Robert, Wesley, Pee Wee, Johnie, Windy, Jimmy, Charles, Clarence Evans was Scoutmaster.

Scouting, both boys and girls units, has been supported by Trinity for many years. A meeting place has been supplied free of charge for each troop sponsored by the church.

Early leaders included Clyde Edwards, Ben Wilson Jr., Clarence Evans, Gene Rollins, Prior McPherson, H. G. Forrest Jr., J. W. Diggs, for the boys and Mrs. B. C. (Dorothy) Smith and Mrs. Herman (Irene) Forrest for the girls. Both groups were church and community service oriented.

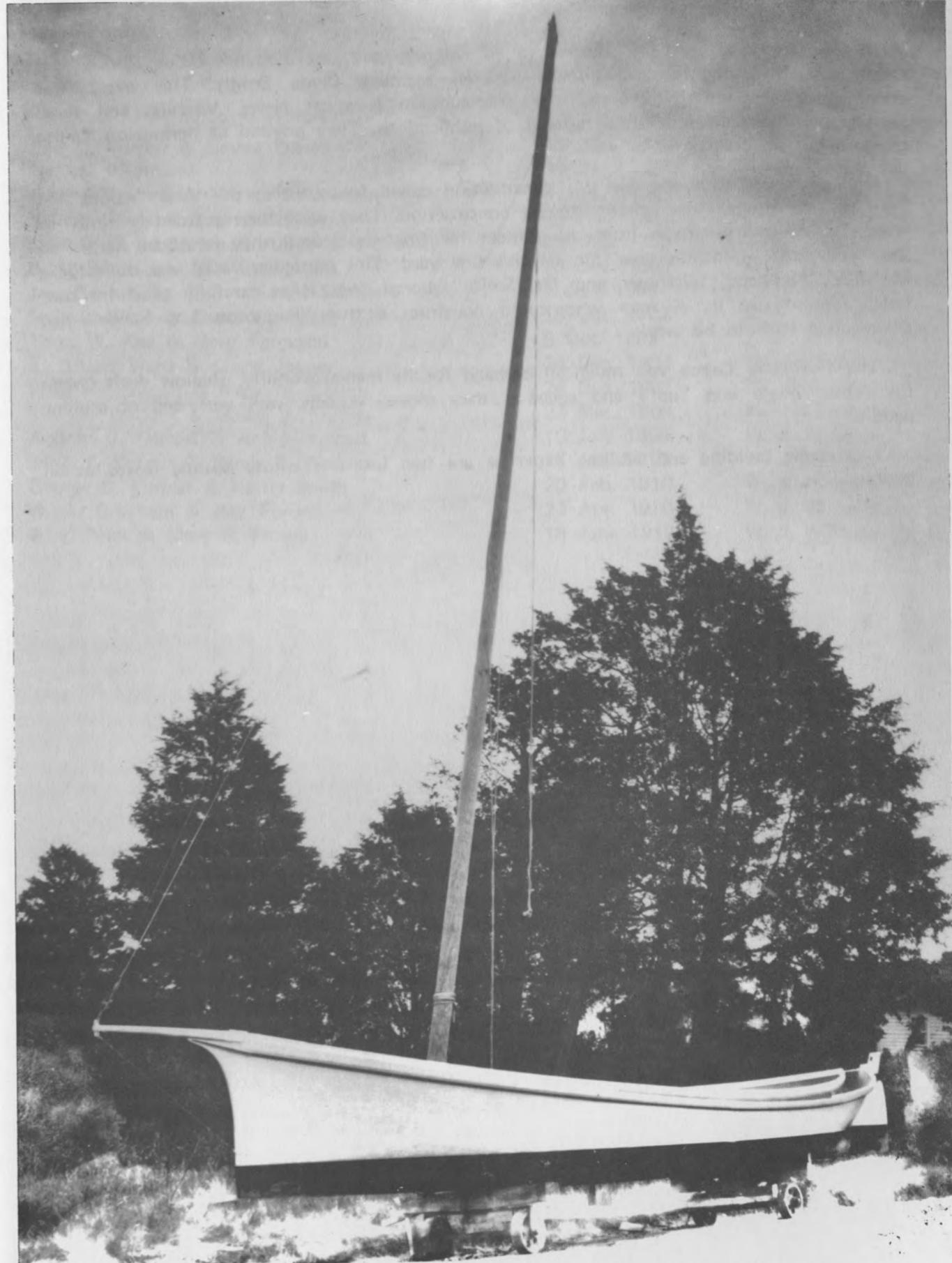
Girls who reached the top rank of Girl Scout achievement included Nancy Burton, Amy Burcher, Teresa Joyner and Libby Forrest.

That beautiful thicket of pine saplings in the "Big Marsh", visible from Poquoson Avenue to the east of Lawson Road, includes many of the hundreds of seedlings planted by Boy Scout Troop 51 in the early 1960's.

Troop 51 granted its first God and Country awards to Mike Herring, Bill and Mark Forrest. Among troop members achieving the Earle award were Dewey Wesley Evans, Essie Ward Jr., Kenneth Forrest, Johnie Shepard and Mark Forrest. The latter was the first to receive this award and he later earned a palm leaf to attach to his Eagle medal. Pryor McPherson, one of Mark's favorite people, kept "forgetting the name of that bird" and referred to Mark as the "troop buzzard", to the young Scout's delight.



Hull of last Poquoson Log Canoe being constructed by Clyde Smith
Photo with Trinity Church in background taken by Mariner's Museum and permission granted by them for use in this publication.



Finished Poquoson Log Canoe poised at the edge of Bennett's Creek on North Lawson Road, awaiting delivery to her new owner in Maryland. Mariner's Museum Photo used with their permission.

A few hundred feet to the north of Trinity, the last Poquoson Log Canoe was carefully and lovingly fashioned by church member Clyde Smith. This event was documented on film by the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, Virginia, and these photographs have appeared in a number of publications. They granted us permission to use them in our history.

Preliminary preparations for this construction called for scouting the local "woods" to find just the proper tree suitable to the construction. They were then guarded carefully to prevent any unwary citizen from using them for fire wood until they could be hauled to the "boatyard" - in this case, Mr. Smith's side yard. This particular vessel was built for a Chrisfield, Maryland, purchaser and Mr. Smith labored over it as carefully as if his own family would use it. A man who could construct a true "Poquoson Log Canoe" had tremendous pride in his work.

The Poquoson Canoe was much in demand for its maneuverability, shallow draft (when the center board was "up") and speed...they moved equally well with sail or sculling paddle.

Log canoe building and sculling expertise are two lost arts whose passing leaves us all poorer.

Marriages from the Archives

	Date	Minister
Jhn. C. Forrest & Emma Powell	15 June 1897	C. E. Hobday
Percival F. Adams	30 Dec. 1897	J. S. Wallace
John S. Forrest & Martha J. Chesser	8 Jan. 1898	J. S. Wallace
Thomas Pauls & Sarah J. Insley	13 Aug. 1898	J. S. Wallace
Stephen D. Holloway & Annie B. Holloway	20 Dec. 1898	L. W. Phaup
B. C. Smith & Lydie E. Watkins	28 Dec. 1898	L. W. Phaup
Jos. F. Bunting & Georgia A. Saunders	1 July 1899	L. W. Phaup
Seth L. Ward & Cassie Forrest	18 Oct. 1902	J. W. Nicholson
Thos. W. Kea & Mary Ferguson	6 Oct. 1893	J. W. Nicholson
E. Gruver Ward & Lizzie Joyner	24 Dec. 1907	Mr. DeShazo
Isaac H. Lawson & Mary M. Rollins	24 Dec. 1907	Mr. DeShazo
Spencer Watkins & Grace V. Forrest	27 Mar. 1909	Mr. DeShazo
Andrew J. Forrest & Annie Huggett	10 July 1909	W. J. Williams
John T. Forrest & Sarah E. Watkins	15 Jan. 1910	W. J. Williams
George S. Forrest & Nettie Smith	20 Feb. 1910	W. J. Williams
W. A. Grayham & Jicy Forrest	23 Apr. 1910	W. J. Williams
B. J. Pauls & Mary S. Powell	18 June 1910	W. J. Williams

Excerpts from the Archives:

Infant Baptisms

Mollie Jane—daughter of John A. & Alice G. Forrest
 Elisha Mitchell—son of Jno. B. & Virginia T. Rollins
 Margaret S.—daughter of Skidmore & Ella Page
 Osborn Forrest—son of Lemuel & Missouri Forrest
 Ernest Thomas—son of Wm. J. & Martha A. Bradshaw
 Rebecca Susan—daughter of Jas. T. & Susan C. Rollins
 David Willis—son of Jno. H. & Ellender A. Holloway
 Bessie—daughter of Joseph & Vianna Bunting
 Maggie C.—daughter of James & Mary Firman
 Virginia A.—daughter of Wm. & Lucy Holloway
 Emma R.—daughter of John & Susan Bradshaw
 Cecil Thomas—son of Edward & Mary E. Quinn
 Harriet Lillian—daughter of Healy & Annie Virginia Topping
 Henry Wilborne—son of James B. & Mary L. Simpson
 William J.—son of Littleton & Virginia Insley
 John Samuel—son of John H. & Mary J. Ward
 Edwin Sigsbee—son of James & Sarah Martin
 Martha Susan Virginia—daughter of Chas. & Martha Firth
 George Wilbern—son of George & Margaret Winder
 Earnest Franklin—son of William & Josephine Pauls
 Sarah E.—daughter of J. R. & Ellen G. Powell
 Mary C.—daughter of W. B. & Sarah Newton
 Marien E. & Edith C.—daughters of R. T. & Julia A. Hawkins
 Henry L.—son of William S. & Hester A. Carmines
 George J. & Myrtle E.—children of G. D. & Amelia Bradshaw
 William W. Joyner—son of W. H. & Jane Joyner
 Carrie A.—daughter of J. P. & Rosanna Bell
 Addie J.—daughter of Peter J. & Catherine Insley
 James T.—son of James & Mary L. Simpson
 Alfred W.—son of J. D. & Annie Carmines
 Edward—son of J. F. & Georgie Bunting
 William Stephen—son of John & Ellen Holloway
 John Riley—son of J. E. & Georgianna Firth
 Eva Irene—daughter of Albert & Sudie Evans

21 Apr. 1895	C. E. Hobday
6 Oct. 1895	C. E. Hobday
6 Oct. 1895	J. F. White
6 Oct. 1895	J. F. White
7 June 1896	C. E. Hobday
7 June 1896	C. E. Hobday
11 May 1896	R. N. Crooks
19 Oct. 1895	J. F. White
19 Oct. 1895	J. F. White
16 May 1896	J. F. White
16 May 1896	J. F. White
6 Nov. 1896	C. E. Hobday
4 July 1897	C. E. Hobday
12 Aug. 1897	R. N. Crooks
14 Nov. 1896	J. F. White
27 June 1898	J. S. Wallace
27 June 1898	J. S. Wallace
13 Aug. 1898	J. S. Wallace
13 Aug. 1898	J. S. Wallace
13 Aug. 1898	J. S. Wallace
1899	L. J. Phaup
1899	L. J. Phaup
1899	L. J. Phaup
April 1900	L. J. Phaup
Oct. 1900	L. J. Phaup
Oct. 1900	L. J. Phaup
Oct. 1900	L. J. Phaup
Oct. 1900	L. J. Phaup
Oct. 1900	L. J. Phaup
Oct. 1900	L. J. Phaup
4 July 1901	L. J. Phaup
20 May 1902	J. W. Nicholson
20 May 1902	J. W. Nicholson
20 May 1902	J. W. Nicholson

Items Picked at Random From Old Church School and Church Records:

On 31 January 1909, the Church Conference for the Rappahannock District met at Trinity Methodist Church. Dr. J. E. DeShazo was Presiding Elder and R. L. (Bob Lee) Forrest was Secretary, and it was noted that Healy Topping was Sunday School Superintendent.

When the group met on August 25, 1909, it was noted that "Brother W. Thomas Forrest of Firmanton ended his long life of 76 years in peace". He died in May 1909 and is buried in Western Cemetery.

Trinity was still a member of the Rappahannock District in March 1910, when J. F. Forrest, Robert Lawson and J. J. Burge were "appointed to keep order in and around the church".

In 1915, after Trinity had been transferred to the Norfolk District, and Dr. W. W. Royall was pastor, the following committee members were selected: Missionary Collectors — H. T. Forrest, S. C. Evans and W. O. Forrest. Evangelistic Committee — W. M. Freeman, J. F. Amory and H. T. Topping. Social Services Committee — I. H. Lawson, J. T. Evans, W. K. Forrest, Gertie Buchanan, Cotha Forrest, Victoria Lawson and Rosanna Pauls (sic).

In 1907, when the East York Charge was a member of the Richmond District, W. V. Tudor was Presiding Elder and Dr. D. J. Traynham was pastor. J. F. Forrest and R. J. Forrest were approved as Exhorters.

The 1st conference of 1907, held on January 5, reported that Robert T. Hawkins was elected to the Trinity Board of Stewards to replace Edward Bradshaw who had died in November 1906. R. L. (Bob Lee) Forrest and W. M. Freeman were appointed to "look after insuring the Parsonage and Church". Epworth League was reported to be active at Trinity and Sunday School had continued throughout the winter.

The 2nd Quarterly Conference of the Richmond District, East York Charge, met on April 6, 1907 at Topping's store, near Trinity. This was located on the corner of the present Lodge Road and Poquoson Avenue. For many years Lodge Road was known as Topping's Lane. The "Welcome Society" received the district banner for having the most new members and the "Rosebuds" were reported to be active. The Rosebud Society was composed of Children and Youth of both sexes engaged in Missionary study and participation.

At the 3rd conference which was held at Tabernacle on 22 June 1907, Trinity stewards present were J. F. Amory, J. R. Pauls, E. T. Lawson, S. C. Evans and W. M. Freeman. The death of Exhorter R. J. (Cap'n. Bob) Forrest was reported and a resolutions committee appointed.

The final quarterly conference of 1907, held at Trinity on 12 October 1907, elected the following stewards for the 1907/1908 period: R. L. (Bob Lee) Forrest, J. R. Pauls, J. F. Amory, R. T. Hawkins, S. C. Evans, Littleton Insley Jr., W. R. (Bob Manning) Holloway, E. T. Lawson, Healy Topping, I. H. Lawson, W. M. Freeman, R. S. Lawson, Elisha Lawson Sr., Henry D. Forrest, J. W. Rollins.

The amount spent on the parsonage in 1907 was \$100.00 and the value was \$6500.00 with no insurance carried.

The 1st conference at Trinity on 11 January 1908, found Epworth League of 150 members doing "good work". The Sunday School was "well-officered" with a good corps of teachers and well attended. A splended Christmas entertainment was given during the preceding holidays. "The Rosebuds were flourishing."

"The people of the charge last year gave to missions an average of 16 1/8 cents each and an effort will be made to bring the charge up to 30 cents this year."

At the 3rd conference in 1908, Epworth League Officers were listed as Littleton Insley, First Vice President; James Bradshaw, Second Vice President; Mrs. Ethel Watkins Third Vice President; Mrs. Melissa Quinn, Secretary; Lemuel Forrest, Treasurer.

The last Conference at the parsonage on November 9, 1908, reported that Trinity had been painted and that "a large new organ" had been purchased.

The pastor thanked the congregation for a "pounding" at the parsonage. For those who never heard of the custom, this was something usually much appreciated by the minister's family. The church members "showered" their minister and his family with a "pound" of various foodstuffs to help fill up his pantry. This was in an era when most of the congregation either caught (from the water or woods) or planted their food supplies. Every housewife cured her own meat and canned her garden produce, and at "pounding" time, the fruits of their labors were shared with the parsonage family.

In February 1909, the pastor reported that the \$200. which he had hoped to have the two (Trinity and Tabernacle) Epworth Leagues raise during the year had been oversubscribed.

Later in the year, Trinity Church was reported as "fireproof as possible" and insured for \$2500.00.

The first meeting in 1914, found the church part of the Norfolk District.

Trinity had collected \$39.65 for the Prohibition League and it had been sent to Richmond. The Social Services Committee listed members I. H. Lawson, J. T. Evans, W. K. Forrest, Gertie Buchanan, Cotha Forrest, Victoria Freeman and Rosanna Pauls.

The First Quarterly Conference of 1930 noted that Dr. R. H. Potts was Presiding Elder and H. L. Hastings was the minister. The value of Trinity buildings was \$55,800.00. A. D. Page was elected Secretary for the Sunday School and A. J. Page was elected Treasurer for the School. It was noted that Trinity moved into its new Sunday School building in 1932. R. A. Harvey died and was replaced on the Board of Stewards by J. R. Lawson. The Epworth League was represented at the meeting by Miss Ruby Forrest, President.

Many of these reports contain only the barest figures and facts and the human factors are obscured. In 1930/1931, however, it is noted that Healy Topping is STILL Sunday School Superintendent as the school moved into its new building. A. D. Page was Secretary and A. J. Page was Treasurer. G. W. Amory Sr. was elected Trustee replacing J. F. Amory who had died. Dr. R. H. Potts was Presiding Elder and H. L. Hastings was Pastor. Robert A. Harvey died and was replaced by John R. Lawson.

Many of the books and papers covering Trinity's history were held for a long time by Mr. W. R. (Bob Manning) Holloway. When he felt no longer able to carry the responsibility, he carried them to Carroll T. Forrest with the request that the guardianship be maintained. Those papers treasured so long by Mr. Holloway are in the steel, fire-proof cabinet in the church building.

The Trinity Messenger Excerpts — April 23, 1961

This newsletter sent out by the Rev. Eugene Wright shows that many things at Trinity remain unchanged... Keith Goodson is still singing at weddings and Mrs. W. W. (Harriett) Forrest is still accompanying him and others.

Mr. Harvey L. Brown united with Trinity by Profession of Faith

John Aster Couch, son of Mr. & Mrs. Aster Couch received Baptism at the morning worship on Sunday, April 9th, 1961 along with Patrice Page Emerson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Sherwood C. Emerson and Keith Lawson Moore, son of Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Moore.

Sympathy was extended to the families of Dick Huggett, Elijah Insley, George Winder, Frank Huggett and Nicy Holloway, all of whom had died recently.

Mrs. Gene (Edna) Barr, Mrs. Charles (Pauline) Leeper, and Mrs. Wiley (Louise) Downs were taking reservations for Wesleyan Service Guild events.

Remodeling began on the church school building — erected in 1931.

M.Y.F. members were invited to gather with the pastor and his family one week, and with Miss Betty Taylor Forrest another week.

Recent arrivals on the Trinity scene were noted: Eric Scott, son of Barbara and Paul Fay Holloway; Elmer Orva Jr. son of Gloria & Dr. Elmer Fisher; William Harvey, son of Elizabeth & W. K. Forrest.

The Ladies' Circles of Trinity were meeting with Mrs. Annie Holloway, Mrs. Linell Quinn, Mrs. Jicy Graham and Mrs. Naomi Hunt.

The Fire Department Auxiliary was preparing a supper to benefit the Fire equipment and Rescue Squad. As usual, Trinity was lending its banquet tables and extra chairs.

Known Donors of Specific Items Given to The Church

Donor	In Memory Of	Item
Alton M. White		Made and gave vestment cabinet in Choir Robing Room.
Carroll & Jessie Forrest	Sarah Elizabeth Watkins wife of John T. (Epps) Forrest	Glass-enclosed display cabinet in hall near minister's office.
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Diggs & sons	Mr. & Mrs. James C. (Bud) Diggs	Sanctuary pulpit furniture. Baptismal Font in Sanctuary. Cross in Friendship Class made of wood from her piano. Painting of Bible and Lily in Friendship Class. Wainscoting in chapel. Baptismal Font in chapel. Altar & Lectern in chapel. Pulpit Chair in chapel. Altar Bible in chapel.
G. W. Amory Jr. Women's Bible Class	G. W. Amory Sr.	
Carroll Forrest	His Mother	
Mrs. Ben (Doris) Wilson Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Healy Topping	Candlesticks in chapel. Altar cross in chapel.
Trinity Youth Fellowship Topping Family	Mr. & Mrs. Ira Forrest	Altar vases in chapel.
Carroll & Gray Forrest	Joseph M. Freeman	Candlelighters in chapel. Kneeling pad in chapel.
Freeman Family	Claytor & Winnie Rollins	
Lena Rollins, Florence Shaw, Missouri Krueger, and Louise Downs	Mrs. Willie Page	
Lavenia Berry/children	Helen Amory Holloway & Anna Marie Holloway	
Robert S. Holloway	His and her parents—	
Mr./Mrs. Sellie Bunting	Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Evans	
	Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Bunting	
Nannie Forrest	Mr. & Mrs. Steve (Annie) Holloway	
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Holloway	Milton Stores	
Men's Bible Class	Sheila Firman/Eddie Miskell Jr.	
Firman Family	Mrs. Joe (Ell) Burge	
Burge Family	Mr. & Mrs. G. W. Amory	
Amory Children	Mr. W. A. Graham	
Mrs. W. A. Graham	John Thomas (Epps) Forrest	
Forrest Family	Mr. & Mrs. John Spivey	
Spivey Family	Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Forrest Sr.	
Forrest Grandchildren	Mr. & Mrs. James T. Rollins	
C. Rollins Funeral Home	E. D. Bunting	Pews in chapel.
Wife & daughters	J. O. Bunting Sr.	
Young Adult Fellowship Class	B. F. Paul	
Bunting Family	G. W. Amory Sr. &	
Paul Family	Nonie Amory Forrest	
Mrs. Bernie Amory	Ira/Rebecca Hopkins	Cross and Crown Emblem on Multi-purpose Bunting.
Mrs. H. W. (Louise) Downs	Mrs. Joseph (Nancy Ellen Page) Burge	
Burge Family		

Choir Chairs

In Memory(M) or/in Honor(H) of:	Donor
Sharon Kay Holloway (M)	Family
Billy Ray Lockard Jr. (M)	Family
Mr./Mrs. Thomas Kea (M)	Mr./Mrs. Tom Diggs Sr.
Mr./Mrs. Jack Martin Sr. (M)	Mrs. Adrian McKinstry
Wm. Thomas Watkins Sr. (M)	Family
Miss Anna Belle Holloway (H)	Mother & Father
& Lester Reed Holloway (M)	
Mr./Mrs. Rob Quinn (M)	Mr./Mrs. Vance Quinn
James Thomas Berry (M)	Mrs. Lavenia Berry
Mr./Mrs. Etrich W. Page Sr. (M)	Children
Mr./Mrs. R. S. Holloway (M)	Mr./Mrs. E. B. Lawson
Mr./Mrs. E. S. Lawson (M)	Mr./Mrs. E. B. Lawson
Mr./Mrs. Tommy Messick Sr. (M)	Children
Mrs. Mary M. Joyner (M)	W. W. Joyner & Family
C. Grayson Topping Sr. (M)	Mrs. Amelia Topping/Family
Arthur J. Page (M)	Arnold Page
Mrs. Blanche Page (M)	Arnold Page
Lemuel Evans Sr. (M)	Mrs. Lemuel Evans Sr.
and Lemuel Evans Jr. (M)	
Esther Marie Proctor (H)	Mr./Mrs. Alton M. White
and Wallie Gene White (H)	
Jamie/Laurie Lender (H)	Grandparents-Mr./Mrs. James Teague
Mrs. Bertha Bunting (H)	Nell, Verlyn & Edna
Mrs. Rosa R. Watkins (M)	Stepfather & Mother
and Mr. Tom Rollins (M)	Son & Family
Eudora Belle Amory Forrest (M)	Col./Mrs. Richard G. Cox & Family
and Howard Garland Forrest Sr. (M)	
(4 Chairs)	
Mrs. Agnes Carmines (H)	Mrs. Wm. L. Luthie
Mr./Mrs. Rollins	Daughter
Mr./Mrs. J. Frank Bunting (H)	Children (Mary Sterling)
Mrs. Marion Page (M)	Grandchildren
Mr./Mrs. Alton White (H)	Emmett Page, Mrs. Chester Koontz & Mr./Mrs. Duane Holloway
Mrs. Mary Paul (H)	Children
Mr./Mrs. John A. Forrest (M)	Mr./Mrs. Norman Paul
Mrs. Winifred Amory DeAlba (M)	Mr./Mrs. Elwood Forrest
Mrs. Evelyn Clark (M)	Col./Mrs. Gordon Cox
	Col./Mrs. Gordon Cox

Dedication

This volume is dedicated to the members of Trinity's congregation who have devoted their lives through the years to serving God and community. This church has never lacked for individuals willing to offer themselves in His Service. Many will go unsung because of their modesty and humility. They believe that God's world needs the attention of faithful lay people and act on this premise. To them, Trinity owes its very life and to them goes the gratitude of all members.

This history is also dedicated to those courageous individuals from Trinity's congregation who have gone into the world to spread the gospel on a full time basis. There are four such people... one retired, one nearing the peak of his ministry and two just beginning their service.

The Rev. Robert Elkanah Forrest, son of R. L. (Bob Spider) Forrest and his wife Cotha Diggs, and grandson of a powerful Lay preacher, Elkanah Diggs of Mathews County, Virginia, is officially retired from the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. His services have not terminated, however, since he is still much in demand for speaking and preaching throughout the state. He and his wife, Ann, reside on the Peninsula.

The Rev. Milford Rollins, is currently serving on the south side of Hampton Roads, after serving the Northern Peninsula, Southside, Portsmouth and Richmond churches. He is the son of M. Buren Rollins and his wife Maggie Quinn, and the great grandson of Trinity's "local (Lay) preacher", Cap'n. Bob Forrest. He and his wife, the former Fannie Ferguson, are well remembered at Trinity, particularly for his very successful youth program which he directed prior to entering the ministry.

The Rev. Jody Lynn Henley was ordained into the ministry of the United Methodist Church in June 1982. She is the daughter of John Henley and his wife the former Mary Jack Evans, and granddaughter of Harry and Sally Evans. Jody has enriched the lives of all around her and it has been a delight to watch her develop. She has the rare gift of the ability to infuse others with her enthusiasm, and Trinity has benefited from this gift in the youth program. Her talents are many, ranging from sports to directing youth music. She will be serving on the Winchester Charge this year.

George Thomas Insley Jr. is the latest member of Trinity to enter the ministry. He is the son of G. T. Insley Sr. and his wife Ruth Firman. He is studying at present for his chosen field and serving a charge in Harrisonburg while doing so. Long one of Trinity's favorite sons, George married the former Carolyn Woodmansee. He is the grandson of Peter James and Betty Insley and John Louis and Florence Firman.



Top left — Rev. Robert Forrest, right — Rev. M. C. Rollins. Bottom left — Rev. Jody Lynn Henley, right — George T. Insley, Jr.

Sources

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